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Sites like Rate My Flat place mounting pressure on landlords to improve their offerings. PAGE 18

IRRATIONAL RICHES
Lucy Hunter investigates why people struggle so much with the basic concept of managing money. PAGE 20

THE PERPLEXITY OF SIN
Lydia Adams takes a glance at the history and religious parallels of the Seven Deadly Sins. PAGE 28

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Critic



THE UNDERBELLY OF DUNEDIN STREETS

With street harassment posing a constant threat of intimidation to the women of Dunedin, the OUSA Feminist Group presents a call to action for both bystanders and victims.



NEWS & OPINION



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Sites like Rate My Flat are placing mounting pressure on landlords to improve their offerings. The new flat rating system will launch next semester.

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The perceived distance between money and reality is such that it can result in anything from fraud to online shopping binges. *Critic* investigates why people struggle so much with what seems like a basic concept, from the tale of a telemarketer-turned-fraudster to the compulsive "sunk cost fallacy."

By Lucy Hunter

24 | THE UNDERBELLY OF DUNEDIN STREETS

With street harassment posing a constant threat of intimidation to the women of Dunedin, and with international research indicating that over 70 per cent of women experience street harassment, we are well overdue as a society for a call to action – for both bystanders and victims.

By OUSA Feminist Group

28 | THE PERPLEXITY OF SIN

We've all heard of the big, bad Seven Deadly Sins, but where did they originate? *Critic* takes a glance (through the lens of sloth stigma and related ideologies) at their history, religious parallels, and possible modern-day alternatives.

By Lydia Adams

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From "Irrational riches"

Illustration:
Daniel Blackball

COVER:

From "The underbelly of Dunedin streets"

Photography:
Alex Lovell-Smith

Models:
Claudia Herron
Max Pocock

“

"I sense there's a reluctance here at the University to get too big in terms of international students ... but as Minister of Immigration, I work very closely with Steven Joyce to make sure that our international and our export education is growing, and I want to make sure at a micro level that Otago is part of that."

MICHAEL WOODHOUSE - NATIONAL PARTY MP

”

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what we might publish when reporting on the Executive's activities. As one of the key groups that hold the Executive accountable for their actions, and informing the student populace of their goings-on, surely *Critic's* involvement should be embraced, not pushed away. Maybe it's me. Maybe I just have a genuine air of being untrustworthy. But, truly, I'm a firm believer in accountability, and particularly for those in positions of power and responsibility.

Admittedly, I sometimes relish in the sweet stupidity of some of the comments the Executive make; whether it be Henri declaring he has never found anything tough in life, or Nick "frothing" over something. But that's the type of comment that lends itself to light-heartedness. I'm all for lightening the mood and having a bit of fun. However, when enthusiasm for a cause becomes emotively driven ego tickling, I'm less sympathetic. There is a time and a place to be professional, and if professionalism is lost in a governance meeting, then how can any democratic and well-reasoned issues be dealt with?

The Oxford Dictionary defines emotion as the "instinctive or intuitive feeling as distinguished from reasoning or knowledge." And there's my point right there. If the distinguishing definition of reason means "the power of the mind to think, understand and form judgments logically," then surely progressive meetings are only complicated when emotion surpasses reason.

Ruby is certainly keen to let the executive meetings run in a fairly balanced manner by letting people speak their mind, and I commend her for that. But there shouldn't be hesitation to allocate speaking rights or move on from a matter where no more progress will be made. Here's hoping the Executive's roundtable of sentiments will transform into a round table of composure before too long.

Claudia Herron

Critic News Editor

GUEST EDITORIAL 12 REASON BEFORE EMOTION, OR REASONABLE EMOTIONAL?

IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNT THIS YEAR, IT'S that student politics can be fraught with emotion and personal agendas. The OUSA Executive meetings have often been multi-hour affairs and are frequently punctuated with emotion, interruptions and largely inefficient discussion points. While the group could undeniably be an incredibly strong one, their lack of order when it comes to meetings has revealed that they may need more ordering around than would be expected.

Last week's Executive meeting offered a prime example of personal sentiment getting in the way of procedure and preparation. An item introduced by Nali, which was not included in the agenda, lead to a drawn-out and emotionally fuelled conversation. The meeting was eventually moved into Committee of the Whole

due to the sensitivity of the issue. Few on the Executive were well read on the issue and what ensued was a less than subdued, and rather circular, emotional discussion. Despite not being included in the agenda, except maybe a personal one, it appeared Nali still had the time to lobby her fellow Exec prior to the meeting in order to garner their support for her position.

While I'm not denying that there should be room for debate in an Executive meeting, the real issue is the amount of time wasted and lack of progress made in meetings solely because of ill-prepared items and emotion taking preference over reason. Such meetings should be a time to give reasoned opinions on live issues, not give emotional pleas on ongoing and uninformed issues. Dramatic declarations that "I'm about to cry," and the inclusion of under-prepared agenda items, like speaking about reports that aren't included in the minutes, have left meetings haphazard.

And with each Executive meeting comes an air of distrust regarding *Critic* and a fear of

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WORK AT CRITIC



CLIMBING HOUSE PRICES NOT REFLECTED IN 13-YEAR CAPPED LIVING BENEFIT STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR BETTER RENTAL ASSISTANCE IF THEY DROP OUT OF STUDY

STUDENTS ARE ONCE AGAIN BEING LEFT IN THE lurch as house prices continue to rise, but financial support for student rentals continues to lag. The New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) has released a report showing that as the average rent for students is increasing, the student accommodation benefit has guarded the same cap for 13 years.

The cap on the accommodation benefit means there is a maximum payment of \$40 per week for students, which is "far less than what other low income New Zealanders receive" says NZUSA President Daniel Haines. This cap has been in place since 2001, and in 2012 Dunedin reached the benefit cap. Dunedin rental costs remain below the national average, but reaching the benefit cap means that as rent continues to increase, support for Dunedin students has not increased since 2012.

In Christchurch the benefit cap was reached in 2008 and rental prices have been "rocketing" since the earthquake. This has pushed rent "significantly above the national average" but no additional assistance has been offered to Christchurch students either, according to Haines.

Other low-income New Zealanders qualify for

rent assistance based on the cost of their rent, while students do not. "Where's the incentive to move from a benefit into study, or from a low-paid job into having a qualification that could potentially move someone out of poverty, if that choice is completely unaffordable?" said Haines.

The accommodation supplement, which is available through WINZ for anyone who is not a student, provides support of up to \$65 per week if you live in Dunedin. Haines says, "It's grossly unfair." It can be upwards of \$100 per week if you live in more expensive places, such as Auckland or Wellington. "Someone could drop out of their course and be eligible to receive an extra \$100 a week than what they are currently receiving," he explains.

"It's all very well for Steven Joyce to claim, as he does, that the Student Support System in New Zealand is 'about right,' but this glaring failure to keep pace with rising costs means that students getting allowances, who by definition cannot get support from their parents, simply cannot afford to study," said Haines in NZUSA's latest press release.

According to Studylink, the accommodation benefit rates are reviewed on 1 January each year. Haines says, "at the very least, the cap on

the support for rent costs needs to be adjusted upwards to reflect the reality of increasing rents." However, he does not believe that the accommodation benefit will increase any time in the future. "This is indicative of the priorities of the Government." He explains, "This Government has a targeted plan of cutting money from the tertiary sector."

OUSA President Ruby Sycamore-Smith says, "It's not good enough that students are being forced into tough situations." Sycamore-Smith added, "it's stupid to have to borrow money from the government in order to live." OUSA will continue to advise students that they can save money by waiting until they are back in Dunedin in February to sign up for flats "so as not to be forced into a 12-month lease." Sycamore-Smith says that OUSA are always looking into ways they can "educate and inform students about flatting and how they can save the few pennies they get from Mr Key."

"If we want the graduates in our society to be reflective of the whole of society, we need to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed," says Haines. "We need to foster talent and not just for those with the deepest pockets."

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane

EXECRABLE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS QUESTIONED

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY CAME with ample discussion on the upcoming referendum and a variation on the agenda.

In an Executive round up, Hamish was looking into getting a committee together regarding TED Talks in Dunedin. Nick was "frothin" after agreeing to a repayment plan in regard to a loan to the Hockey Club, which Ruby also seemed pleased about and admitted the process had "taken us a couple of years." Brydie was working with heads of colleges to get a more concrete and streamlined approach to dealing with sexual assaults in residential halls. Henri said the Tertiary Day "overall went really good," but extra help setting up would have been desirable. Laura had a meeting with the previous Education Officer, Jordan Taylor, who was incredibly helpful, with Laura mentioning she could have talked with him for longer.

The Executive round up also saw Nali mention she had to leave the meeting early, but that she had an item to discuss with the group, despite it not being included in the agenda. Nali's item concerned the Campus Memorial Policy, including the provision of Dedicated Trees. It appeared Nali had in some ways lobbied a number of members on the topic prior to the meeting and what followed was a less than procedural and judicial approach to the meeting. The under-informed discussion was drawn out into a period of talking over one another with no real substantive framework for the conversation. Ryan proved the most reasonable on the topic and recognised the under-informed nature of the debate, suggesting that the Executive form a working party with the University Chaplaincy regarding the death of students.

A long onslaught of referendum debate then followed. Nick started the ball rolling with the suggestion that the OUSA investment fund be put to students via *Critic* to get "more active engagement," rather than as a referendum question. He reasoned that it had potential to have a wider reach to students given *Critic's* readership. Ruby was hesitant to agree, saying that *Critic* is "probably only targeting a certain sector of students." Eventually it was decided to put a question into the next referendum, as Ruby thought it "important to go through traditional resources for formalities," despite the fact that the recent OUSA survey shows 90 per cent of students read *Critic*.

So they could get to the moderator in time, the referendum questions were discussed next.

The first three were received with little debate and concerned OUSA's active opposition of the Education Amendment Bill (No. 2), OUSA's support of the legalisation of Marijuana following the ban of synthetic cannabinoids, and OUSA's support of a Universal Student Allowance.

Much debate then followed as to whether the referendum should include a question on OUSA's support for GST-free fruit and vegetables. Nali was for including the question, and also suggested that women's sanitary items be GST-free. Nick agreed with Nali on both, saying, "I'm addressing all women, in the same way this addresses fat people." Hamish didn't seem to think it was a big concern to students, saying it "depends on the person. I get paid quite a bit but I never eat fruit and vegetables." Kurt, on the other hand, said it's "not a live issue," and Ruby agreed it was a "waste of space." Eventually, it was decided the question would remain, with only Kurt and Ruby opposed. The final question concerned OUSA investigating the establishment of a student bar, which remains a live issue. The Executive accepted all 11 questions, including those submitted by students.

Last year's constitutional breach at the NZUSA election was also discussed in terms of whether it would be highlighted in the referendum, or confirmed at a SGM (Student General Meeting). The breach involved three delegates attending the NZUSA election not casting votes for then-OUSA President Francisco Hernandez's bid to be NZUSA president, despite an OUSA Executive motion that directed delegates to do so. While it was suggested a SGM was required to declare the breach, it was decided it was easier to "pop it along with all the other questions," following doubts that quorum at an SGM would be met, which required roughly 100 people to attend. However, an Emergency Executive Meeting was then called on 15 May after it was revealed to be a requirement of the OUSA Constitution to hold an SGM in order to report a constitutional breach to the student body. The SGM will be held on 22 May at 12.30pm in the Main Common Room, with an accompanying sausage sizzle.

The meeting also saw Ruby congratulate the Rowing Club on their recent success at the NZ Universities Rowing Championships after they acknowledged OUSA's support. She said she was "incredibly proud" of the Club and was looking forward to continuing the supportive relationship.

QUESTIONS FOR THE OUSA REFERENDUM TO BE HELD 27-29 MAY 2014

1. Should the Otago University Students' Association Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 be received and accepted?
2. Should the Otago University Students' Association Annual Report for 2013 be received and accepted?
3. Should PricewaterhouseCoopers be appointed as Auditors for the Otago University Students' Association for 2014?
4. Should Anderson Lloyd be appointed as Honorary Solicitors for the Otago University Students' Association for 2014?
5. Should Donna Jones's appointment as Secretary of the Association for a further four (4) years be ratified, pursuant to the executive resolution sc47/14?
6. Should the following be adopted as OUSA External Policy? "That OUSA believes in guaranteed student representation on University governance boards and committees, and as such actively opposes the Education Amendment Bill (No 2), 2014"
7. Should the following be adopted as OUSA External Policy? "That OUSA supports the legalisation of Marijuana following the ban on all existing synthetic cannabis products."
8. Should the following be adopted as OUSA External Policy? "That OUSA support the move to a Universal Student Allowance."
9. Should the following be adopted as OUSA External Policy? "That OUSA supports Goods and Services Tax (GST) free fruit and vegetables."
10. Should the OUSA Executive investigate the establishment of a student bar?

In other news: the Hyde Street Keg Party Report was spoken to by Ryan in Committee of the Whole; the Chinese Scholar and Student Association was disaffiliated from OUSA with little fuss; and OUSA's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 were also received, revealing a net surplus for the year of \$525,467.

Finally, a reprioritisation of the budget was then discussed, following the Uni Games falling through. With plans now in place to send teams to the Eastern Australia University Games, a request was made to spend \$11,000 for students to attend. The Executive agreed to reallocate \$11,000 from the Summer Games fund to the Eastern Australia Games, with the remaining \$2,120 to be used to fund a new dance competition.

By Claudia Herron | @ClaudiaHerron

WRITERS AND READERS BOOKED IN FOR NEXT YEAR

MAN BOOKER WINNER: "GREAT WILL SURFACE EVENTUALLY" FROM BAD WRITING

DUNEDIN'S INAUGURAL WRITERS AND Readers Festival has been hailed a great success, and a follow-up event has already been booked in for next year. The six-day festival took place from 6 May to 11 May and saw more than 50 New Zealand and international writers, poets, playwrights, scriptwriters, publishers and editors attend. Nearly 2,000 event tickets were sold.

The Festival may have included examples of, and had representatives from, almost everything literary, but it was the New Zealand-based writers and readers that unified the diverse program. Several of the events sold out well before the festival started, with people travelling from all over the country to see some of their favourite writers in the flesh.

The "foreword" to the festival featured readings and talks from Eleanor of-recent-Man-Booker-fame Catton, renaissance man Alexander McCall Smith, should-be national treasure Kate De Goldi and 2014 Burns Scholar Majella Cullinane, with the pre-eminent Roger Hall providing introductions. Each author spoke

of their inspirations to write, and each mentioned something totally different to the last. De Goldi spoke of how children's literature inspired her more than anything else, and Majella spoke about death, Frankenstein and Dante's *Inferno*.

An afternoon with Alexander McCall Smith, chaired by the University of Otago's own Liam McIlvanney, saw St Paul's Cathedral at capacity as they discussed everything from his work and personal philosophy to his strong female characters. McCall Smith explained that his way of viewing life and his writing was that beauty, and the sharing of it, is a "fundamental human reaction." The amount of bad stuff in the world only makes this sharing of beauty and laughter more important.

The evening with Eleanor Catton, chaired by Finlay Macdonald and held at the Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, was one of the headlining events. Catton disclosed her methods and views on the literary world and revealed to audiences that she hadn't written anything since *The Luminaries*, saying that she was waiting for a good idea. She explained the value of bad ideas,



and how working through the many bad ideas, something great will surface eventually – that's how she got *The Luminaries*. Catton also spoke about how she believed children's literature to be the holy grail of all literary endeavours, and found literary fiction to be boring, where nothing happens – placing emphasis on the importance of plot-driven writing.

By Laura Starling | @CriticTeArohi

ONLINE REFERENDUM

9AM 27 MAY UNTIL 4PM 29 MAY

VOTE AT VOTING.OUSA.ORG.NZ

SHOULD OUSA
ESTABLISH A
STUDENT BAR?

OR SUPPORT A
UNIVERSAL
STUDENT ALLOWANCE?

SHOULD OUSA
SUPPORT NO GST.
ON FRUIT + VEGE?

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YOUR
SAY!

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(OR IN THE UNION COURTYARD IF WEATHER PERMITS):

Free BBQ and student forum to discuss Referendum questions
followed by a Student General Meeting at 12.30pm
regarding a past Constitutional Breach

otago uni students' association



POLICE "CAN'T SEE THE BOTTLES COMING" IN THE DARK NOISE CONTROL FAILS TO CONGRADULATE PARTYGOERS

THREE STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED AFTER A large party on North Castle Street escalated with partygoers throwing bottles at Police. The party took place during the second graduation weekend of May, and saw two students arrested for disorder and another for obstruction and escaping police custody after Police were called to assist Noise Control at the property. At the time of going to print, Critic was unable to confirm if any official charges had been laid.

Critic spoke with DCC environmental health team leader Ros MacGill who said that "according to the callout report the crowd was aggressive; they threw bottles, denting vehicles and causing violence." Southern District Command Centre deployment co-ordinator Senior Sergeant Brian Benn also agreed the crowd was "not welcoming." MacGill said "the officers were on site for

an hour," when police were called to the scene to assist with the seizure of equipment. While Noise Control had no record of any issues with that address in the past, Senior Sergeant Benn said there had been "two recent incidents" where Police were forced to intervene.

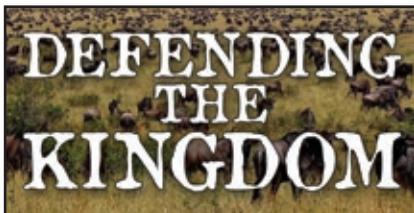
Throwing bottles at people was a particular concern to Police who consider it "cowardly and stupid." Senior Sergeant Brian Benn indicated to the ODT that "when it's dark it's quite disconcerting because you can't see the bottles coming at you." Although no officers were injured over the course of the weekend, previous incidents have seen a police officer hit in the head with a bottle and collapsed to the ground.

37 noise complaints were received over the weekend, with the previous weekend reaching 40 complaints. Although complaints are

"no higher than usual," MacGill emphasised that "the problem is more related to the size of crowds, their behaviour towards Police and Noise Control." She added, the "DCC takes all residents' comfort and safety seriously and is concerned at the increasing number of Noise Control complaints, particularly in the north end of the city, and the escalating violence and disregard for enforcement officers – Police, and Noise Control, as well as emergency services." She reiterated the DCC's recent statement that seized sound equipment will see the responsible person charged \$56 for the cost of the seizure and \$26 per day for storage. An infringement fine of \$500 can potentially also be imposed.

Breaking glass and throwing bottles is a breach of the Student Code of Conduct and students can "expect to be in serious trouble," if they don't comply with the code. Critic spoke with Director of Student Services Karyn Thomson who said, in regard to the three students arrested, "should the evidence indicate that bottles were thrown at or violence was caused toward police ... disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct could well follow."

By Laura Munro | @CriticTeArohi



FINDING FUNDAMENTAL FAULT IN FACTORY FARMED FOODS

EVERYONE HAS THAT FLATMATE WHO TOOK BSNS104 in first year and talks about demand and supply. (Actually, it doesn't explain why you ate my soup when it was clearly labelled, but thanks ...) This principle states that an increase in consumer demand makes businesses increase output in order to supply accordingly and maximise profit.

Over the past 50 years, demand for meat and eggs has increased enormously. So, to keep up, businesses have turned to "factory farming." This means keeping animals indoors, in smaller and smaller cages, to produce as much meat and eggs as possible. It is the biggest source of animal cruelty in the world, and over 100 million

pigs and chickens are subjected to this in New Zealand alone every year.

A pig is kept in a crate so small that she cannot turn around. She becomes so bored and depressed that she chews on the bars of her cage. Can you imagine being the victim of such treatment, even for an hour? Her babies are taken at four weeks old, and she is then impregnated again. This account is not an exceptional horror story. It is standard industry practice in our country. A living, breathing being with more intelligence than a dog or a three-year-old child is reduced to a production unit.

88 per cent of NZ's eggs come from hens kept in cages where they cannot even flap their wings. Several other hens share these cages, and each has less space than an A4 piece of paper. Three million hens are being kept like this right now. Just for a moment, imagine being locked in a telephone booth with 11 other people. Beaks are removed without anaesthetic.

"Broiler" hens are chickens raised for meat. They are slaughtered at six weeks old, but by this point they have been pumped so full of hormones to

accelerate growth that they are dying under the weight of their own bodies. Broken bones and the inability to walk are common. Note that layer hens "exhaust their profitability" at eighteen months of age and are thus slaughtered, but a chicken will naturally live for up to eight years. This is where the demand for cheap meat and eggs has taken our country.

Remember the NZ Herald story about "chick-shredding?" Male chicks are put into a shredding machine and ground up alive, because they have no commercial value as layers or broilers. It takes at least ten seconds for them to stop feeling pain.

Most people fawn over puppies and kittens, and then buy cruel eggs and meat. The argument "I can't afford to buy free-range" is reasonable. Genuine poverty is a serious issue. However, most Scarfies who say this buy alcohol every week. So, wonderful students of Otago Uni, all I'm asking is that the next time you go to put those cheaper eggs and bacon into your trolley, just consider who is really paying the price.

Column by Libby Larsen | @CriticTeArohi

UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER CENTRE

UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER CENTRE MARKETS LENDING HANDS VISION FOR VOLUNTEERING TO BECOME PART OF MAINSTREAM UNI CULTURE

THE UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER CENTRE HAS established a regular stall at OUSA Market Days, according to a report by Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne at the latest University Council meeting on 13 May. The stall hopes to promote UniCrew, a staff and student volunteer organisation, alongside various other volunteer opportunities.

The stall will also include a monthly showcase by a community organisation interested in reaching out to students, and this month will see an appearance from the Cricket World Cup, seeking volunteers for 2015.

The Volunteering Centre was established to connect students with volunteer opportunities,

according to Volunteer Co-ordinator Sze-En Lau. "A lot of students want to volunteer but they have no idea [of] the range of activities that are available, or the kind of community groups that exist here in Dunedin." Working as a "volunteer matchmaker," the Volunteering Centre matches students to organisations that are always keen for another helping hand.

However, it's not only the charitable organisations that benefit, argues Lau. "It's a great opportunity to build [a] skill set that you can't necessarily learn from a textbook – some of the most valuable learning experiences will happen outside of the University ... It's very cliché but it does broaden your horizons."

In addition, Lau believes an active volunteer programme also creates a valued "sense of community spirit here on campus," benefitting not only students and community organisations, but also the wider University. Ultimately, Lau hopes the programme will encourage students to incorporate volunteering into their everyday student life. "Our overarching vision is to make volunteering part of mainstream university culture."

Another success for university-led community involvement includes the recent launch of the University of Otago Student Leadership Award. According to VC Hayne, this award is "designed to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills [that] will enhance their own personal growth and employability, while making a positive contribution to society." The award requires a minimum of 170 hours of community engagement activity, alongside a series of compulsory workshops and active involvement in a leadership development plan. While to some this may seem strenuous, Lau said the programme serves as a much needed "kick up the bum" for students eager to be actively involved with volunteering.

By Emily Draper | @CriticTeArohi

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91 FM

DR CLARKE WRITES “READABLE BOOKS” FOR 150 YEARS PRE-ORDER NOW FOR 2019 DELIVERY!

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVIST Dr Ali Clarke is continuing her work of researching the University's history, an “enormous responsibility,” after being tasked to write a book based on the first 150 years of the University, spanning from 1869 to 2019.

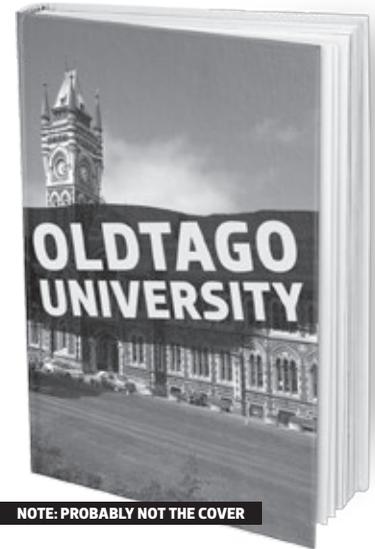
Dr Clarke was selected for the task by the Project Advisory Committee and said her selection was based on her extensive experience in researching and writing “readable books,” including a book on the history of Knox College in 2009. The project, which was initiated in 2013, has Dr Clarke contracted for another three years with her manuscript to be completed in 2017 so that it is published in time for the 150-year anniversary in 2019. Although the task is a huge one, Dr Clarke is working on the project part-time while she continues in her role as an archivist at the Hocken Library.

Dr Clarke describes the University as a “fascinating organisation.” She says, “Everyone has a different story and a slightly different perspective.” One of Dr Clarke's favourite interviews has been with Otago's oldest surviving graduate,

106-year-old Ian Chirnside. Chirnside arrived at the University in 1922, beginning work as a lowly technical assistant at the age of 14 with the Dental School. Chirnside later graduated from Dentistry in 1940. After serving in the Dental Corps in the Pacific, he returned as a lecturer in 1945 where he remained until his retirement in the 1970s.

Over the years, Dr Clarke thinks that Otago students have become a much more diverse group. “Back in the day, [the students] were a lot less diverse in ethnicity and background.” She explains that the number of Maori and Pasifika students continues to increase and that women have gone from being a small minority in the University to outnumbering men since the late 1980s. She says that there are now far more students representing a greater proportion of the community.

Dr Clarke is the only researcher to be collating this unique history of the University, and says people have been “so supportive and positive [about the project].” A similar project is also being carried out on the history of Massey University by their academics.



NOTE: PROBABLY NOT THE COVER

For the duration of the research, Clarke is also regularly updating the blog entitled *University of Otago 1869–2019 – Writing a History*, which can be found at otago150years.wordpress.com, where she updates readers with her most recent findings, and where she hopes readers can “help me solve a few mysteries.”

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane



WINTER AND HOUSING

RECALL MY STUDENT WINTERS WELL.

Particularly memorable was my Crown Street flat where the sun set at 2:30pm – with ice still on the windows. I spent nights in my Swannndri and sleeping bag, huddled in front of the small log-burner in the “lounge.” I suspect these are conditions many of you will relate to.

The day I cracked and turned the wall heater on is still the stuff of legend amongst my then-flatmates. Having popped down to Gardens

New World, I returned to find my flatmates – a hanging jury – sullen-faced, arms crossed, “occupying” my bedroom. The way they tell the story it involved a Hawaiian oasis in North East Valley – and a power bill they're still paying off.

Last year I visited a constituent with a young family, living in the same house I flatted in 20 years ago. I was shocked to find there had been little improvement. Sure, the occupants keep it a little cleaner. The four colours of mould that grew in the bathroom back in the day are now managed more aggressively. But the insulation has not improved, and no clean heating has been introduced.

On the good news front: a Cosy Homes free insulation retrofit is available to 1,500 Dunedin houses. This is accessible for some students. You can see the qualifying criteria by visiting righthouse.co.nz/services/government-funding.

If you or someone you know fits the bill, get in touch with EECA approved providers Right House (0800 744 569) or Smart Energy Solutions (0800 888 766) as soon as possible. The offer is limited, and work must be underway by the end of June.

Properly insulated houses improve lives. Poorly insulated homes cause lifelong health problems for those who live there, and this ultimately costs the health system and taxpayers down the track. Of course, there'll always be someone from a previous generation banging on about how you've gone soft. Ask my grandfather. He lived in a shoebox, had to walk barefoot for miles to school and back each day, in the snow, uphill both ways ...

Regardless, I believe that nobody should live in a cold, damp, unhealthy home.

Column by David Clark | @DavidClarkNZ



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PHD STUDENTS LURED BY FREE FLIGHTS AND ACCOMMODATION DISTANCE NO LONGER A BARRIER TO RECRUITING POTENTIAL STUDENTS

THE UNIVERSITY IS OFFERING FREE FLIGHTS and accommodation to domestic PhD candidates considering studying toward a doctorate at Otago. The recruitment campaign is designed to allow doctoral students to "seriously consider Otago as an option," Head of Marketing Services, Lindy Wilson, said in a press release.

Successful applicants to the "Free Flight NZPhD" program will be flown to Dunedin on 4 August from either Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. Applicants will spend two days in Dunedin staying at the Executive Residence, have the opportunity to meet with their chosen departments, take a grand tour of the University and the city, and have dinner with senior academic staff at the historic Staff Club, before being flown home. The University also guarantees a three-year, \$25,000 per annum scholarship to candidates in the program who ultimately choose to study their PhD at Otago, as well as paying for their tuition fees.

Prior to this program, no travel assistance was available to PhD candidates wishing to explore their options at Otago. Wilson added,

"We know Otago has a lot to offer postgraduate students, but our distance can sometimes be seen as a barrier. This campaign will give us the opportunity to show potential students how great Otago is." According to a University spokesperson, the University's efforts to attract the best students are because "PhD candidates are vital to Otago. As well as undertaking their own research, candidates contribute to the research of their supervisors. Many are also excellent tutors for our undergraduate students."

When asked how many doctoral candidates were expected to take up the offer, a University spokesperson said, "This is the first time we have run this campaign. We are unsure how many people will be interested." The University is also uncertain of whether or not the offer will be repeated next year. "This year is a trial of the campaign. We will review the outcome after it has run and consider whether or not it becomes an annual event."

The University is currently top ranked in the country for postgraduate research, a status it is obviously eager to maintain. "Otago prides itself

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PHD STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A \$25K SCHOLARSHIP ARE NOW INVITED TO APPLY FOR THEIR FREE FLIGHT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO.

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otago.ac.nz/freeflights YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

upon being the leading postgraduate research university in New Zealand. This is indicated in the latest PBRF (Performance-Based Research Fund) results and the quality of our PhD candidates is a vital component of achieving these results."

Applications to the Free Flight NZPhD program close on 27 June. Successful applicants will be announced on 23 July.

By Nina Harrap | @NinaHarrap

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers for clinical comparison studies of market brand-leading drugs alongside generic formulations of those drugs, *If you fit this criteria;*

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SEX SCANDALS, SARCASM AND SIMIANS? WAKE ME UP WHEN THERE IS A REAL CONTROVERSY ...

THIS WEEK LET'S FIRST GO TO THE UNNECESSARILY apologetic rugby league desk, which has been rocked with another shocking sex scandal that was neither shocking nor was it a scandal, and should have never been news in the first place. A Snapchat video featuring Warriors hard man Konrad Hurrell was leaked showing him driving while receiving a BJ from D-list celebrity Teuila Blakely. Oh my, two consenting adults engaging in oral sex! Won't somebody please think of the children?

As a Warriors fan, sports journalist and fellow blowjob enthusiast, am I missing something? The only legitimate point of public concern I can see here that is worthy of criticism is maybe the issue of road safety. Most people old enough to understand what happened shouldn't be and most likely were not offended, and the young, impressionable fans that the NRL is worried about protecting probably don't understand anyway, so the fake outrage draws more attention to the non-issue than if they just ignored it.

Fans of rugby league are aware that most of the players are criminals and thugs, anyway; they are poor role models and shouldn't be put up on some moral pedestal. It was stupid and a dick move on his part to share the video and I do feel sorry for Blakely as her son is the same age as Hurrell, which would have made for an awkward conversation around the dinner table. However, I am sure his mates will be a lot keener to come around to visit from now on.

A spokeswoman from Shortland Street's production company took the right stance, saying the company wouldn't comment further on Blakely's involvement in the sex video as "it was a personal matter, not a work-related matter." She spoke to radio station Mai FM about the "scandal," and was quoted as saying it was "incredibly hard and incredibly challenging."

Not long after the video came to the attention of the NRL, their scandal clean-up team, the "Integrity Unit," jumped into action with boss Jim Doyle saying the incident "was a concern for the game." Come on, really?? THIS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FUCKING GAME!! I think that

crusty, old Mr Doyle is just a wee bit jealous that he isn't the one getting noshed by a cougar while cruising down the highway in his Commodore.

Newly signed Warriors coach Andy McFadden felt the need to defend his player but then threw him under the bus by saying, "They have physically mature bodies but maybe not in the mind." Which translates to: "he is an overpaid rugby player who is young, dumb and full of cum; what the fuck did you expect?"

Hurrell was then forced into a vague and insincere apology video, saying, "I want to apologise to the club, the fans, all my friends and family for what I have done" and "I was being stupid and I just want to move on and play footy."

That same apology could have applied to him fumbling the ball, missing a training session or something more serious like clubbing a seal or pushing his mother down the stairs. I would have had a bit more respect for his apology if he had said something specific. Something like: "Now, kids, remember you should always keep both hands on the steering wheel when driving and not one hand holding your phone recording and the other hand on top of your fuck buddy's head."

Sorry, Konrad, I am totally on your side here but you are not sorry for what you have done. You are sorry because you were stupid enough to share the video. The one time I got road-head, 10 minutes north of Kaikoura, I certainly didn't regret it either ...

According to the Warriors' spin doctors, Hurrell has been "ordered to undergo counselling on the use of social media" and they issued him a fine of \$5,000, which will surely make this the most expensive BJ he has ever received. I just really hope she was able to finish, otherwise this becomes an even sadder story. My final thought on this is that I am now wondering if it will force Hurrell into changing his try-scoring celebration, which is "blowing" a kiss to his mother ...

To a more local "controversy" in Wellington. After a recent football match a player from Kapiti Coast United has been suspended for eight games for racist abuse after complaining about an opposition player's excessive shirt pulling. He

was heard saying, "Ref, he's climbing all over me like a monkey!" referring to the offending player, who just happened to be Fijian-Indian as well as someone perverting the rules of the game.

The player being fouled insists he was just trying to emphasise that the other guy was grabbing his shirt and arms like a monkey would grab at the branches of a tree, and that he didn't have any racist intent. Monkeys are very intelligent mammals that are very proficient tree climbers; consequently this comment could either be read as a racist slur or an endorsement of the opposing player's athletic abilities. You decide.

What if he had said: "Ref, he's climbing all over me like a donkey!" In this case it goes to show how substituting one letter in an otherwise identical sentence can add or remove any and all racist connotations. English is certainly a powerful language in that respect.

Allow me to play devil's advocate here and ask the question: Who is really racist here? I would argue that it's the referees and the administrators of Capital Football who dished out the ban. They seem to be perpetuating the racial stereotype rather than diminishing it by forcing their own racist reading of the situation onto the accused player.

Apparently in the same game, one of the Kapiti players complained about being called a "Scottish git," which is a clear-cut case of insulting someone based on their ethnicity, but this went unpunished, as it is apparently not racism.

When sporting institutions and their administrators overreact to these "issues" in the ways they have, it just makes them look petty and insecure. I think that their over-the-top responses to minor things do more damage to their brands than the initial incidents did and that the out of control "everything must be politically correct" attitude in sports governing bodies is at odds with the attitudes of the people who turn up and support the teams, who couldn't care less if somebody makes some sarcastic comments or got a cheeky BJ between the traffic lights.

By Daniel Lormans | @danbagnz

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MMP

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tick **TWO** boxes.
One vote goes to a party,
and one goes to a local MP.

Your party vote goes to the party you think is best for the job of ruling the country.

The Castle Street Party
 The UniCol Party

Your electorate vote goes to the candidate who you think is best for that area.

Cindy Smirnoff (of Castle)
 Woody Speights (of UniCol)

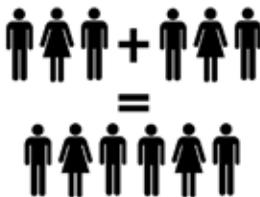
You can split your vote - you don't have to vote for the candidate of your party



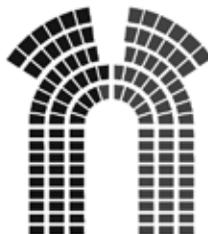
This election, you'll be voting to decide 120 MPs. 64 are general electorate MPs, 7 are Māori electorate MPs, 49 are list MPs. If you're Māori, you can choose to enrol for the Māori electoral roll or the general roll.



The number of MPs a party gets is directly proportional to the percentage of the party vote. If a party wins 45% of the party vote, it is allocated 54 MPs. If it wins 20 electorate seats, then it will have that 20 and 34 list MPs, because $54 - 20 = 34$. For a party to be in govt, they must get at least 5% of the vote or an electorate MP



For a party to form a govt, it must have 61 seats. If it has less than that, it can coalition with other parties to get the magic number.



FOR MANY OF YOU, THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST election; and if you're into politics enough to be reading this, that's very exciting. Over the past couple of months, I've been picking brains and studying policy in an effort to present a few of the people who you'll have the opportunity to vote for. This week, I'm going to dial it back and focus on what you'll actually do on 20 September – vote. To do that, here's a handy-dandy infographic on MMP, and a few things to help you mentally prepare yourself for that special Saturday. Hopefully you'll be able to find your way to the polling booth without much difficulty.

ENROL TO VOTE

If you've just turned 18, you probably will have received your voting papers in the mail. And hopefully, you will have filled them out. If you haven't, however, it's very easy to hop online to the elections website and get it all sorted. Youth disengagement is one of the biggest issues in politics, so by making sure you're registered to vote you'll be set to have your say on election day.

PICK AN ELECTORATE

For those of you who aren't Dunedin locals, you get a bit of a choice as to which electorate you can vote in. This is a fairly important consideration, as different electorates have different things at stake. If, for example, you're from Auckland and your home address is in Epsom, you may have an interest in voting for National so ACT doesn't get the seat; conversely, if you hate everything about Epsom, you may want to vote in Dunedin North. Election day is during the semester, so have a think about where you'd like your electorate vote to go.

GET TO KNOW YOUR MP

It's surprisingly easy to have a chat with your local MPs, who often lurk around campus or nearby it, just waiting for young whippersnappers to ask them about their latest activity. Our local MP is David Clark, and he'll be up for re-election. Also vying for the Dunedin North spot will be Metiria

Turei of the Greens, and Michael Woodhouse of the National Party (I interviewed him before he appeared on Vote Chat; his interview is on page 42). If they're not available in person, then they'll definitely be reachable by email or Twitter, so there are no excuses for not getting to know at least one of them.

DECIDE WHO TO VOTE FOR

This sounds a bit stupid, but it's obviously the most important thing you need to decide. Stray away from your parents' preferences, investigate which party looks best for you, and don't feel obliged to vote for the electorate MP who belongs to your party. MMP means the composition of parliament is extremely diverse, and every vote counts. If there's a particular issue you feel really strong about, investigate how the different parties feel. You may be surprised, and it may change the way you look at the election.



ENROL TO VOTE

elections.org.nz

ELECTION HELD 20 SEPTEMBER 2014



POLITWEETS



Clare Curran @clarecurranmp · 7m
@g_townnz consuming #cheeserolls whilst listening to Eric Clapton

Details Reply Retweet Favorite More



Trevor Mallard @TrevorMallard · 43m
@NZNationalParty has @JudithCollinsMP warming up to sing their election theme song "Don't Cry for me Ozeida"

Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More



John Banks @johnbanksnz · 2m
.....would the environmental lawyer have a resource consent for the bees at the bottom of the garden ?

Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More



Paula Bennett @paulabennetmp · May 11
New fishing rod for Mother's Day #MothersDay

Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More



Winston Peters @winstonpeters · 23m
A lighthearted suggestion to first year politics students that they shouldn't take so many selfies. Very few people look good in them!

Retweet Like More



Amy Adams @amyadamsMP · 24m
power lunch



View more photos

Clare tells @g_townnz what parliamentary office training comprises.

I look forward to the whole musical.

Banks also watches Campbell Live.

Whatever "floats your boat."

Considering I have my own selfie with him, I'm disappointed.

What?

GREATEST HITS

OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, CAMPBELL Live has been running an "at home with the leaders" segment, where John Campbell goes to party leaders' houses and eats the dinner they cook. While it might be a strange twist on *Come Dine With Me*, it's a good way to see what the leaders are like as people. Last Monday, the lucky chef was David Cunliffe of the Labour Party. The Greatest Hit doesn't go to him, however; it goes to his very impressive wife. Karen Price keeps bees, is an environmental lawyer, and a pilot. Although David's the one who wants to run the country, it's fairly clear she runs the show.

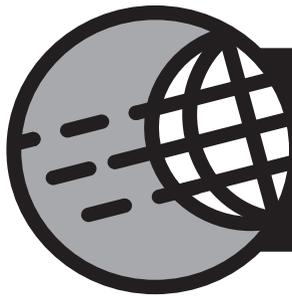
GREATEST SHITS

THE TITLE OF GREATEST SHIT THIS WEEK goes to none other than the Prime Minister himself, for a minor scandal known affectionately as "Sausagegate." At the recent National Party Conference in Queenstown, John Key decided to host a sausage sizzle, giving them away to curious locals. What he didn't realise, however, was that two girls were also hosting a sausage sizzle nearby, attempting to fundraise for a trip. Given their proximity to the free sausages, they struggled to make many sales. Thankfully, once John realised, he donated a few dollars to their cause.

VOTE CHAT CHATTER - ELECTIONS.AC.NZ

THIS WEEK'S VOTE CHAT IS CLARE CURRAN, the Labour MP for Dunedin South. I regularly feature Clare Curran in the

Politweets section, and it'll be great to get some of that banter going in person. Make sure you book your seat!



NEWS IN BRIEFS

BY CLAUDIA HERRON & ZANE POCOCK

WORLD WATCH

ENGLAND | A new study has revealed traces of cocaine in water even after it had been treated and purified, according to scientists from the Drinking Water Inspectorate. Researchers found the metabolised form of cocaine was common in samples of drinking water that they tested, as well as compounds with caffeine, over-the-counter pain killer ibuprofen, and a drug used to treat epilepsy.

ITALY | Hot on the heels of the UK banning books for inmates, new legislation in Italy will see prisoners' sentences reduced by three days for every book they read, up to a maximum of 48 days per year. The only caveats are that the books must be over 400 pages long, and comic books don't count.

HAITI | A shipwreck found off the coast of Haiti is thought to be that of Christopher Columbus' flagship, the Santa Maria. 500 years since the boat's sinking, the find is being called the most significant underwater discovery in history.

CHINA | "Going Home," by saxophonist Kenny G, has for decades been the unofficial tune to end the working day in China. It is blasted in shopping malls, schools and other public places to indicate that it is, indeed, time for everyone to go home. The track is often played on a loop for the final hour and a half of the day just in case someone missed the cue.

GRAPEVINE

"The city's decision [to terminate Stephen Stem] was about appeasing certain members of the community who want to make this case about Ms. Golden's age, the fact she is African-American, or the fact she is a woman. None of those factors played a role in Stem's decision to use deadly force."

Robert McCabe, the attorney for Police Officer Stephen Stem who fatally shot a 93-year-old woman in her home in Texas and was subsequently dismissed by the Hearne Police Department.

"As the United Nation's International Civil Aviation Organisation considers the requirements for global flight tracking, we will also be looking closely at the most effective means of sharing tracking data when needed with applicable search and rescue and accident investigation authorities."

Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the UN's ICAO, confirmed that the United Nations aviation agency agree that global airline tracking is needed in the wake of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370's disappearance and near-term implementation plans should be established by September.

"We apologize for disappointing many people by failing to include same-sex relationships in Tomodachi Life. We pledge that if we create a next installment in the Tomodachi series, we will strive to design a game-play experience from the ground up that is more inclusive, and better represents all players."

Nintendo publicly apologised after not including a same-sex relationship option in its life simulator game, Tomodachi Life. Fans were left disappointed after Nintendo said the inclusion of the option in an update to the 3DS handheld title is definitively off the table.

"This is a really important article—the impression I get is that it's almost unethical to be lecturing if you have this data. It's good to see such a cohesive picture emerge from their meta-analysis—an abundance of proof that lecturing is outmoded, outdated, and inefficient."

Eric Mazur, a physicist at Harvard University, who has campaigned against state lecturing techniques for 27 years. Despite Mazur not being involved in the work, a new study has revealed undergraduate students in classes with traditional stand-and-deliver lectures are 1.5 times more likely to fail than students in classes that use more stimulating, active learning methods.



critic.co.nz/bakerycat

A cat and a bakery in France; perhaps the best ten seconds you can spend on YouTube.

moneyhorsegames.com

Independent game developers Money Horse Games are set to release a controversial game titled Glorious Leader!, which puts North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un up against the "capitalist pigs" from America.

critic.co.nz/classgraffiti

University classes would be so much more bearable if the blackboard featured beautiful guerilla motivational graffiti.

tylervigen.com

Spurious Correlations – a site dedicated to finding correlations between such phenomena as "per capita consumption of cheese" and "number of people who died by becoming tangled in their bedsheets." Who said that correlation doesn't imply causation?



FACTS & FIGURES

CRITIC'S "SUCCESSFUL" OLDER SIBLING

Well, someone needs to talk loud and dirty about toileting

Education in call of nature

APPARENTLY THERE'S A MAJOR GAP IN NEW ZEALAND'S EDUCATION SYLLABUS ... ODT rightly demands this be amended immediately; we don't want New Zealand's reputation going down the drain!

PM's promotion hits a snag

A snag is right: John Key was giving away sausages for free a mere 100m away from school kids selling the same product to raise money for a school trip. Smooth move from the PM: killing off private enterprise with a taxpayer-supported giveaway is more of your opponents' game.



By the way, is that Todd Barclay in the t-shirt?

First-borns first in line for success: study

ODT: crushing dreams since way back. This study reveals first-borns are more ambitious and more likely to succeed. In other words: if you aren't first born, go get a job at McDonald's.

I think the Chancellor is a little confused as to the central theme of Hyde Street. Getting students to stop drinking so much is about as realistic as the ODT winning an award for journalistic excellence.

THE Hyde St keg party will not "truly" be a success until students stop drinking as much, University of Otago vice-chancellor Prof Harlene Hayne says.

Govt's promise doubted

Imagine that! Government not following through on a promise ... Next time we ought to make sure their fingers and toes aren't crossed.

Over 2.6 million

Americans speak some variety of Chinese, making it the third most-spoken language in the country.

13.8% more likely

to die on your birthday than an average day.

CONOP8888

the document code for the U.S. military's plan detailing how to protect humanity from a zombie apocalypse.

Kintsugi

the Japanese art of fixing broken pottery with resin and powdered gold, silver or bronze. At its centre is the philosophy that breakages become part of an object's history, rather than destroying it.

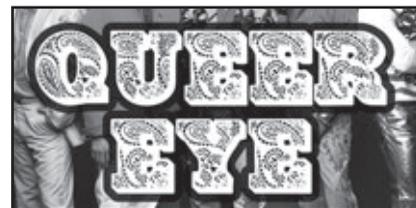
Obsessive-compulsive spartanism

the opposite of hoarding. The condition results in people habitually throwing out or giving away their possessions.

Survival Gate #4

the final survival challenge US Army cadets must undergo before graduating. The description sounds blissful: "Weighed down by heavy equipment, cadets must perform several tasks in a pool amid simulated battlefield chaos. Artificial fog, rain, and deafening noise are pumped in, darkness is punctuated only by strobe lights, and the water is churned by artificial wave makers."

Anna Jarvis, who founded Mother's Day in 1908, fought to have the holiday abolished in 1920 when she realised how commercialised it had become.



SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM

HI EVERYBODY,

For the last year and a half I've spent my chunk of this fine publication mixing health advice with bad puns and needlessly obscure, protracted similes. Like a homophobic English professor lecturing on the undertones of Othello, there's one theme I never wanted to discuss, too. This column was created to tackle issues relevant to young adults regardless of their tabooity or stickiness (see also: STIs, diarrhoea), but there's a youth health column that, until now, never saw the light of day because the subject itself was too dark. Let's crack open that can of worms now: let's talk suicide and self-harm.

One of the psychiatrists I worked with had three key messages around suicide: 1) Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem, 2) Not all suicide is preventable, but most could be prevented, and 3) Self-harm is never "just" attention seeking.

Around 500 people deliberately kill themselves each year here in New Zealand. That's more than one per day on average, and only includes the ones we know were suicide. Around 100 youth (15-24 years) suicides occur every year making it the second-most leading cause of death in the age group. Men are around three times more likely to commit suicide than women.

The biggest risk factor for suicide is mental illness, particularly mood disorders, substance use, anxiety disorders, eating disorders and antisocial behaviours. Mental illness is suspected in between 80 and 100 per cent of suicides, with depression being the most commonly found. Though depression increases your risk of suicide 20-fold, only a minority of people with depression commit suicide (lifetime risk of four per cent).

As we talked about last week, society doesn't handle mental illness well and we're taught to hide it away. It doesn't take two paragraphs of statistics to tell you that suicide is going to be

a big problem when we don't handle mental illness well.

By-and-large, most mental illness is episodic. Even heavily pervasive depression tends to be transient, relenting with appropriate support and time. In this way, the biggest risk factors are temporary problems – awful problems that may feel inescapable and endless at the time, but ones that can pass. Suicide is often described as an "escape," and in dark times people tend to romanticise the idea of relief from it all by death.

As a society, we need to be offering better forms of relief. We need to actively take steps to encourage mental wellbeing and support people through episodes of mental distress. We need to address the elephant in the room and open ourselves to the idea that the answer to, "how are you?" isn't always "good, thanks." We also need to realise just how serious self-harm is.

Self-harm is incredibly common. Scarily so. The stats we have on it are not even the tip of the iceberg. Around seven people are admitted to hospital for self-harm every day which is frightening for two reasons. The first because of how intense those injuries must be, and the second because of how many more people harm themselves without need to be hospitalised to recover.

Cutting, burning, hitting, overdosing. No matter what the method, no matter what the severity, no matter how successful the attempt was likely to be, no matter how much you think they're just "attention seeking," self-harm is serious. It's one of the biggest predictors of future suicide: up to two-thirds of people who commit suicide have attempted it before. There's no such thing as "safe" self-harm.

Next week we'll be back to dick jokes and light-hearted health advice about haemorrhoids or something, but my message this week is no laughing matter: treat suicide seriously and please speak to somebody early if it ever creeps into your mind.

By Dr Nick | @CriticTeArohi

ANGLICAN OPPRESSION

"JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED" IS A LEGAL maxim with a long and varied history. It is first found in the Mishnah dating back to the first century BCE. It was popularised by Martin Luther King Jr. in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and has since been used to support a range of issues. It springs to my mind as I contemplate the latest statement from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia on same-gender relationships, released on 14 May. It can be found at taonga.org.nz.

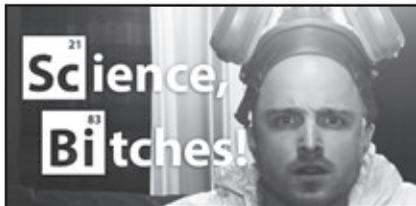
I was there as Bishops, clergy and lay people debated about the lives of queer folk. I witnessed people putting their reputations on the line to argue for progress and equality. I listened as conservatives argued that all same-gender relationships were sinful and that they would leave the church if there were any institutional change. I was the only person to stand at the podium and declare myself as part of the queer community and argue how the current church stance affected my life.

I found that I had great support from many amazing people who showered me with affirmation, hugs and (most importantly) glasses of wine. I write this emotionally drained as I consider how little progress we have made and yet glad that this will not (yet) divide the church. Perhaps more significantly I feel that I have never experienced this level of homophobia in my life. Sure, everyone present was incredibly measured and "respectful" in their language, and yet some still felt that they could no longer be a part of this church if I was granted any measure of equality.

So the Anglican Church in these lands is trying to be a bit more inclusive of us queers; they even went to the extent of apologising for past injustices, and yet they are not quite at the point where they feel that they can bless our relationships. Fortunately they think they might be in a few years and are working on the policy and legislation necessary to make that step.

There is hope; I watch with invested interest.

By Sir Lloyd Queerington | queer@critic.co.nz



LIVING THE QUANTUM WAY

ARE PLANTS, BIRDS AND EVEN OUR OWN CELLS keeping a secret from us? While human minds struggle to grasp the unintuitive nature of quantum physics, do other creatures perform quantum feats with no thought whatsoever? For answers, we must look to the emerging scientific field of quantum biology.

You know that quantum physics deals with small things and those small things make up bigger things. Hence it would seem to follow that physics and biology should be friends. And they are! However, one of the reasons quantum physics has a reputation for being so weird is precisely because things happen on quantum scales that we just don't see in our larger, biological world. For example, quantum coherence depends on us assigning wavelengths to things we would typically not consider waves, like electrons (this

is called wave-particle duality). You may also have heard of quantum tunnelling (where particles have a probability of ending up places that should be impossible) and entanglement (two separated particles both react instantaneously when something happens to one of the pair). It would be surprising if these same bizarre quantum effects could be seen in the chaotic world of cells and larger organisms.

Green sulphur bacteria are just your typical photosynthesising bacteria. They spend their time converting energy from sunlight into glucose to provide energy for them to keep on existing. It is important to these bacteria, and also to plants (and things that eat plants and so on), that photosynthesis is very efficient. The mystery is just how they are pulling off such high (like 95 per cent) efficiencies. It has been suggested that quantum coherence could be at play – with each electron participating in the reaction using its wave-like nature to take several possible reaction paths at once and then for the reaction to only occur along the most efficient path. Normally this coherence would be lost with all that is going on inside a cell but maybe photosynthesis has found a way to stop this happening.

Birds use the earth's magnetic field

(magnetoreception) to migrate. Birds could well be figuring out where to go using the entanglement that Einstein called "spooky action at a distance." The entangled particles are hypothesised to be pairs of molecules in the bird's eye.

Another puzzle that quantum biology could unlock is how our sense of smell works. The current model of smell is a "lock-and-key" model. In this model, how things smell depends on the shape of the molecule (the key) being smelt because this molecule can only fit into a particular receptor in our nose (the lock). However, a group of scientists demonstrated that molecules with the same shape but different molecular weights can smell the same. These scientists suggested that quantum tunnelling, as well as shape, influences our ability to smell.

While understanding quantum biology would be interesting in its own right, it could also give us the ability to invent new, extremely energy efficient technologies. Quantum biology is a relatively new discipline, and even if its conjectures prove false, we will still learn more about the world by investigating them. That's science, bitches!

By Laura Illston | @ScienceBitches_

soc102 Cultural and Social Identities

Do tattoos make you stand out or fit in? Is conformity to norms healthy for social order or is collective resistance necessary for social progress? How can stigmatised identities be overcome? This paper explores one of the central themes in social science, namely the intersection of 'self' and 'society'. The concept of 'identity' takes central stage in this paper, and we ask provocative questions about the ways in which social arrangements shape who we are, while we simultaneously influence the social orders of which we are part.

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DUNEDIN FLATS TO BE RATED, WARRANTED AND STARRED PRESSURE MOUNTING ON DUNEDIN LANDLORDS TO IMPROVE THEIR OFFERINGS

MANY OF THE LANDLORDS ARE NERVOUS ABOUT it and maybe they should be," says Rate My Flat co-founder, Lindsey Horne. Ratemyflat.org.nz is yet another scheme putting the pressure on landlords to improve rental accommodation. The new flat rating system will launch next semester with the intention of improving on similar such tools, and will offer "an online database of ratings, comments and insider knowledge" from previous tenants, allowing students to review local flats from the tenants' perspective.

The University of Otago Accommodation Office and the Dunedin City Council implemented the flat rating scheme STARS (Student Tenancy Accommodation Rating Scheme) in 2010, following an environmental assessment of housing in Dunedin's Tertiary Precinct in 2009. So far, the system has assigned over 400 Dunedin flats and studios with a rating.

Accommodation Services Director James Lindsay says the system has resulted in "significant improvements, such as an increase in security and fire protection provision in flats."

The STARS rating is based on the response landlords give to a questionnaire, which covers questions on fire safety, security, insulation, heating and ventilation. "STARS is great for awesome landlords" says Horne, "they can show off their awesome property." She explains that the issue with STARS, however, is that "bad landlords have no incentive to bother getting a rating at the moment." These "bad" landlords

can currently ignore the ratings system with no repercussions, so the Rate My Flat scheme is designed to "empower the consumer" and will hopefully force the landlords of poorly rated flats to make improvements.



"The idea is that tenants can look online at a flat and know what they are getting themselves into before they sign the lease."

LINDSEY HORNE
RATE MY FLAT CO-FOUNDER

The Rate My Flat project began after a group of students decided to showcase how landlords could improve their flat conditions. For 2013 and 2014, the students moved into the "Shit Show Chateau," voted as Dunedin's worst flat in 2012 by OUSA. A deal was set up with the landlord to insulate the house and make it energy efficient – if he would finance the renovations, the students would do the labour. The tenants, including Horne, have since draught-proofed and

insulated the house. The project, which gained widespread media attention, was "a lot more work" than the tenants anticipated; foundations had to be put in and support beams were needed in the roof, requiring the help of professional builders. The group quickly realised that the pilot project would be too much work for other students to take on in the future.

The "Chateau Crew" wanted to implement something easier for students, so they applied for the Wellington-based "Live the Dream" programme. Held at the start of 2014, it provides 10 weeks of full-time mentorship and workshops teaching various business skills. The skills are then put towards a project of their choice that will have a positive social and environmental impact. The Chateau Crew created ratemyflat.org.nz. Despite the request from Wellington City Council to set the project up in Wellington, the group chose to take it to Dunedin. "It is the coldest climate, has the oldest houses and most uninformed tenants," Horne explained.

The Rate My Flat website now has ratings for 750 flats in Dunedin but they are aiming for 2,000 to 3,000 flats to be rated before the site goes live in mid-July. Horne says, "The idea is that tenants can look online at a flat and know what they are getting themselves into before they sign the lease." The ratings are a result of current and former tenants filling in paper questionnaires asking questions based on the flat's warmth (including how the flat is heated), price, landlord responsiveness and location. The questions also



cover shower pressure and how soundproof the flat is "so you know if you're going to hear your neighbours banging next door or not."

Rate My Flat has the support of OUSA and the Student Support Centre after a Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed between both parties. The Student Support Centre is able to assist with landlord/tenant mediation and OUSA has agreed to provide up to \$5,000 towards the website's development. They will also provide staff help and advice "such as design assistance [to] ensure the job is done perfectly and aligns with OUSA well," says OUSA President Ruby Sycamore-Smith. She believes both STARS and Rate My Flat have their advantages. "Combining the two is obviously the best outcome."

Rate My Flat has had mixed responses from landlords and property managers. "The good ones think it's great because [they] can have it alongside their property listings." She says that some landlords are nervous, possibly concerned that tenants will provide false information, however, "we are making the questionnaire as objective as possible." Rate My Flat is in contact with the Property Investments Association because, Horne says, they want to gain insight from the landlord's perspective as to whether and how they want to be involved with them. "We really want to celebrate and showcase any improvements they make and we want to make sure that we are communicating them in a way they want."

To address the risk that landlords could pay off tenants in exchange for a good rating, Rate My Flat will include a flagging system for dishonest ratings. For example, if you visit a flat and notice it is particularly damp or cold but the rating says otherwise, then you can flag the review.

Critic expressed concern that the system could result in the rated flats going up in price, however, they believe the excess of housing in Dunedin would prevent this. Letisha Nicholls, another co-founder, explained that in Wellington, where there is not an excess of housing, "[the rating] would be a case of price differentiation." However, a poor rating in Dunedin, where there is an excess of housing, "could be the difference between occupancy or not."

The site will also showcase flats that do not have

a twelve-month lease. "That's a cycle we'd like to break." They will be promoting to website visitors which flats have a nine month lease. Horne believes "It's ridiculous that [the 12 month lease] is the norm. It's archaic."

The Rate My Flat team, which now involves nine volunteers, have not formally spoken to the University but they have had support from individual departments, including the Marketing Department "to make sure our site is legit" and the Centre for Sustainability "to make sure the data we collect is legit." Horne says that at this stage they have not needed to talk to the University but, as a long-term goal, "we would love to see Rate My Flat as a plugin next to the property listings on the Otago Accommodation list." James Lindsay of the Accommodation Office had not heard of Rate My Flat until *Critic* approached him, but he said "[the University] has always been active in supporting improvements either by helping landlords with advice on how to improve quality, advising tenants of their rights, or by working with OUSA."

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JAMES LINDSAY
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

Rate My Flat did not indicate that they wish to replace STARS. "We are trying to come in from a different angle because they are purely landlord driven." Horne said that they see STARS as being a part of the landlord's opportunity to give feedback to a rating. "If they wanted to take advantage of the right of response, they could post their STARS rating."

Lindsay says, "the STARS system is not biased towards landlords." He explains that it uses a "self-review" questionnaire to describe certain characteristics of the property. He says the scheme, which cost the University approximately \$3,000 in 2013, "is designed to empower students with more information." They audit up to 25 flats per year to "ensure that the questions have been

understood and answered consistently."

The DCC originally helped implement the STARS system but is now part of a nationwide trial to implement a warrant of fitness for rental properties across New Zealand. The DCC have a Social Wellbeing Strategy and one of their key directions is "that Dunedin houses are affordable and healthy homes." Rebecca Williams, Events and Community Development Manager for the DCC, said she would "encourage any efforts to get there" and that "it needs to be a city-wide effort." The DCC are "very encouraging" of the STARS system but are now working with the ACC and Green Building Council as well as Auckland, Wellington, Tauranga and Christchurch City Councils to trial a formal assessment tool for housing.

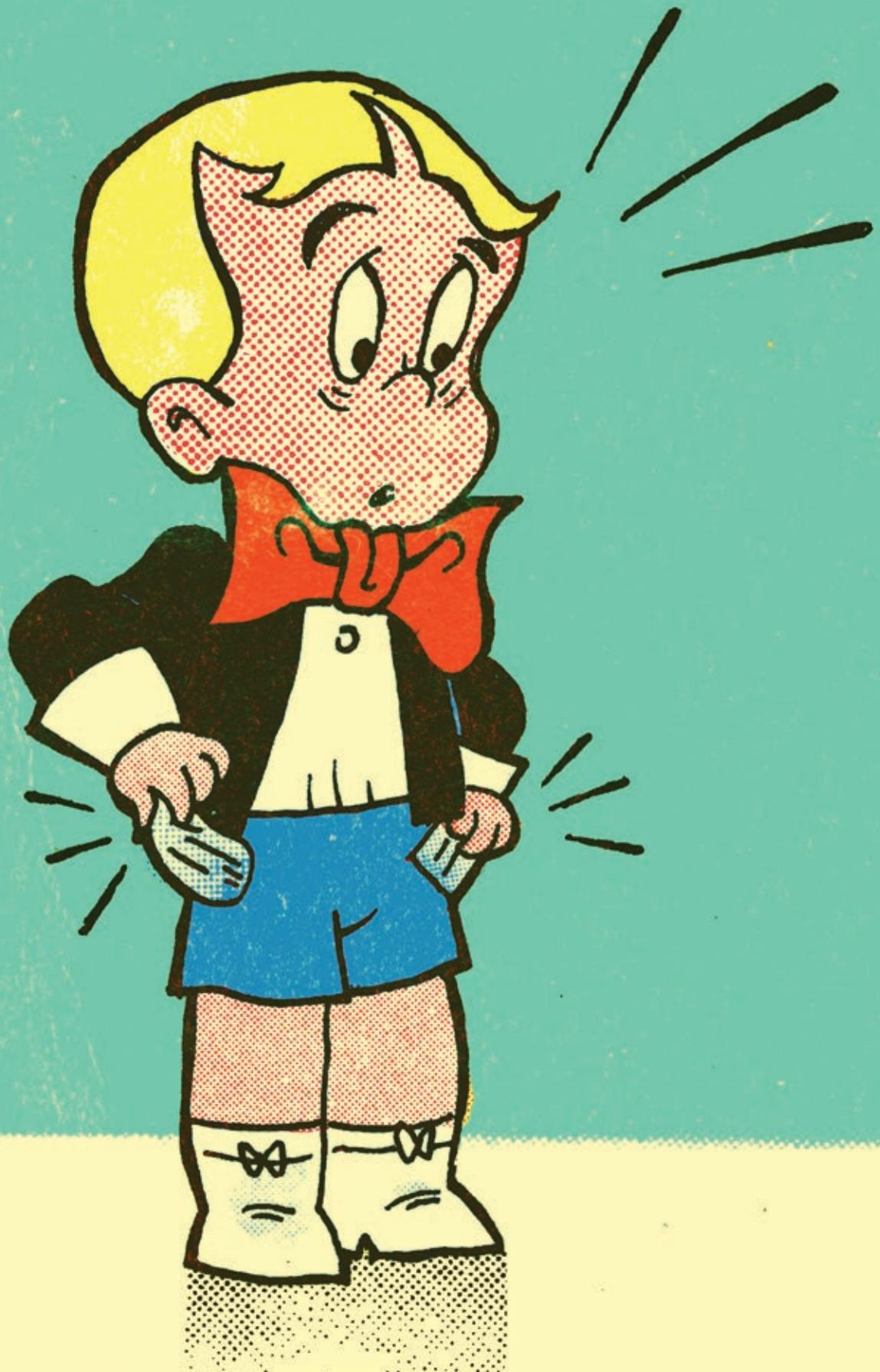
So far 140 rental properties across the country have been evaluated. "It is a collaborative project [aimed] at making rental housing safer, healthier and more energy efficient." The warrant of fitness will be a more formal approach to rating rental properties but it is undecided who will carry out the warrants. "The focus has been on whether the checklist is sufficient and modifications will be made." Each council is trialling different methods of assessment; some have used environmental council staff whilst others have used building assessors.

The trial for the nationwide warrant of fitness is "a long way from being implemented" as they are currently just testing potential methods that will enable the councils to establish a national standard. Williams said she sees an organisation like Rate My Flat as "a bit like Trip Advisor," which she would use "to form a part of my opinion by reading reviews," but that it needs to be used in conjunction with other "more formal, standardised" methods.

Williams notes that the schemes are all after the same goal – to give tenants the opportunity to make informed decisions about their future living environment and to promote high standards among landlords. The DCC's focus is on rental homes because people can modify the homes they own, but "if you're renting it out to someone else, it really should be at a certain healthy standard already."

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane





IRRATIONAL RICHES

The perceived distance between money and reality is such that it can result in anything from fraud to online shopping binges and irrational approaches to TradeMe auctions. *Lucy Hunter* investigates why we struggle so much with what seems like a basic concept.



HANCES ARE YOU ARE TERRIBLE WITH money. I'm sure some of you aren't but most of us, according to statistics, shouldn't be trusted to manage our own wallets. Latest figures showed New Zealanders owed \$5.36 billion on credit cards. 66 per cent of that

was incurring interest. We all know how high interest rates on credit cards are, and yet we keep on using them. Why are we so irrational when it comes to our personal spending?

Don't worry! It's not your fault. It's the natural function of our terrible brains to want to spend money stupidly. A (comedy) book on practical psychology explains, "Thanks to evolution, the human brain has no idea how money works and will fight you every inch of the way to a responsible financial decision. Your broken thinking leads to logical fallacies that you can observe in your everyday life, often by looking at your own bank statement." Basically your brain thinks that the future isn't really going to happen and cares far more about having nice things now than saving for a boring future self. This goes for many other aspects of human behaviour, such as the difficulty we have with dieting, our tendency to procrastinate, and our poor sexual decisions.

When Dan Ariely was 18, a horrible accident left 70 per cent of his body covered in third degree burns. He

spent the next three years in hospital enduring painful treatments, operations, and isolation from regular life. He ventured out into public only occasionally and dressed in a full-body, Spiderman-like suit. He had become an outsider. From this exceptional viewpoint Dan observed the world around him and noticed more than anything the irrationality of human beings. He devoted his life to what makes us act the way we do (particularly in regard to the experience, treatment, and management of pain) and eventually ended up as a behavioural economist studying the irrational responses people have to money. His research demonstrates how our financial decisions can be swayed by factors as disparate as having too many options to whether or not we are sexually aroused.

He also investigates criminal behaviour and our response to it. While we are all horrified at the thought of someone breaking into our house and stealing our stuff, you are far, far more likely to be the victim of fraud than outright burglary. Of course, the horror of a burglary comes from the invasion of personal space and possible danger of physical attack. Home burglaries, shop hold-ups, and car thieves are usually poor, desperate people who need money badly enough to have to resort to extreme measures. Fraud is more often done out of greediness and a kind of disassociation between what the criminal is doing and actual theft.

Elliot Castro was a telemarketer who dreamed of better things. He talked to journalist Jon Ronson about how a

glimpse of the first-class part of the plane on a flight to South America when he was eight years old sparked a life-long desire for luxury. "I've always wanted to be better," he explains. And he found a way to fund his dream. He discovered in his loathed job cold-calling strangers that he could tell the person on the phone that his card had been referred to the credit card company, put them on hold, come back to them and say he had the credit card company on the phone and they needed details. He ended up with a notebook full of these details, mother's maiden names, and card numbers.

For some perspective on how much Elliot hated his job I asked my friend Reg to describe his time working in a call centre in Australia. His response: "Selling ideology under the guise of seeking the broader public vibe on an issue. Market research. Asking questions on behalf of big business and conservative political parties so they know what tag lines work, what may win/lose elections, and support for controversial major minor projects. If I were ever told to fuck off it would give me a warm feeling. Unless we really needed to meet a deadline. Then you perform like a motherfucker, predatory spider. That's when it gets you. You're at home knowing that 'Bill' broke down on the phone because his farm is fucked by some coal seam mining project and you've baited him for 40 minutes just so said company knows that in their next press release they need to avoid everything and anything. Just doing your fucking job."

So it is not surprising that Elliot Castro wasn't too upset when he was fired from his job. He left, taking with him his notebook full of hundreds of people's credit card details. He could then call the bank and make changes to the account such as changing the address, and have a new card sent to him loaded with someone else's credit. Elliot asked his mum what would happen if someone stole your credit card and used it and she told him that the bank would cover it. His mum says, "If I'd known why he was asking me that, I would have maybe elaborated a bit more. I didn't go

into all the stress that someone would have if someone stole their credit card."

Elliott took his stolen credit cards on a shopping spree in London. He bought a Gucci belt that cost £300, a Louis Vuitton bag that was £600, and spent the nights drinking champagne at bars. He then started travelling first-class all around the world, living a fantasy lifestyle of shopping, dining and drinking, and all on other people's money. He sent his mum perfume and massive bouquets of flowers. By the age of 21 Elliott had

"Dan Ariely uses the example of how you feel about taking a pen home from work and taking 70c out of the till (or whatever the pen's value is). Most people would have no qualms about the former but cringe at the latter, because one feels like theft and the other seems like nothing important."

defrauded the credit card companies out of around a million pounds. Reality would creep back into Elliott's high-life when he reflected on what he was doing alone in his hotel rooms. He lied to everyone he met about where he got his money, saying he was a doctor, secret service agent, naval officer or hotel consultant. This meant that if he ever met anyone he really liked and got on with he couldn't become friends with them; they didn't have any idea who he actually was. Elliott was eventually stopped in a clothing store where he was buying clothes with his personal shopper. He was sentenced to two years in prison, of which he served one year.

Perhaps the reason why Elliott could bring himself to carry out his fraud on such a huge scale is because of how we perceive theft when it comes

to money. The more distance we have between physical cash and our personal transactions, the more likely we are to be dishonest. Dan Ariely uses the example of how you feel about taking a pen home from work and taking 70c out of the till (or whatever the pen's value is). Most people would have no qualms about the former but cringe at the latter, because one feels like theft and the other seems like nothing important. When Elliot's mum told him that the banks would cover the cost of the things he bought on other people's credit cards, it gave him enough distance in his mind between himself and someone going into someone's wallet and taking their cash to keep his conscience at bay. This disassociation with money is also what makes it so easy to make online purchases where your credit card details are already loaded into your favourite websites, needing only a couple of mouse clicks to have money go from your account and new things delivered to your house.

I put a post on Facebook asking my friends for stories about money. I said they could be funny, sad or interesting. I suppose I was secretly hoping for someone to come and tell me a story as wild and entertaining as Elliott Castro's. But he stole all his money. It is very different if you are responsible for the money you are spending, even if it isn't your own. The stories I got were just really, properly sad. A young mother whose boyfriend bought a whole lot of things on hire-purchase then left her with all the bills in her name. An old woman who put her house into a trust for her kids and then struggled to get by on her pension while living in a Salvation Army flat, only to have the bank sell her house and keep the money for themselves. Money stories are generally the depressing result of a depressing system.

One woman, who I will call Kelly, told me about her credit card habit which stemmed from insecurity and anxiety about socialising. She thought she absolutely had to have a new outfit each time she socialised. After moving to a new town and struggling to make close friends, she

"by bidding on an item you inadvertently welcome it into your personal sphere of extended self – it starts to feel like it is kind of yours. So when someone else comes along and bids on it, suddenly they are bidding against you for your item"

bought new clothes, shoes and makeup every week for several months, all on her credit card. She says, "I just kind of blocked out what I was doing. I didn't look at the transaction as it went through, and I never looked at my statements. I just kept going till my card ran out." Often nobody would comment on her outfit, making her think it was hideous. She remembers looking at her clothes in her wardrobe and feeling like none of them were good enough to wear on a particular night, so she would buy more. She had two credit cards with a combined limit of \$7,000, so once they maxed out she had to stop buying. She says that she "knew I was getting myself further and further into debt and that I wouldn't be getting out of it in a hurry, but I felt at the time that my personal image was more important than worrying about money. It sounds stupid to say it out loud but I really felt that to be liked and accepted I needed to keep improving my wardrobe."

After hearing Kelly's story I went to a bank to try to talk to someone about their responsibility concerning credit card debt, but they didn't want to talk to me. To be fair they had no obligation to give me their time when I wasn't a customer.

Dan Ariely explains that once we own something, it becomes like an extension of ourselves and we value it like it is part of our person. If you ask someone how much money they would want for their favourite jacket, chances are they would either refuse to sell it or ask for far more money than it would go for in a second hand shop. Maybe Kelly's compulsive buying of clothes was an effort to create an "extension" of

her self-image that she thought might be more desirable to the people around her. It's nice that we value our stuff in a way that makes it worth more to us than its "actual" monetary value. But there is something about this trait that can be exploited by businesses to make you pay more for something than you really should be. Anything that gives the option of taking something home for a free trial is tricking you into adopting the item into the realm of your personal things, where its perceived worth will swell in the warm glow of your extended ego. Once you've had something at home, it seems like it is already yours and the thought of parting with it is like giving one of your possessions away.

Even sneakier are the online auction sites like TradeMe that work on an auction system rather than a simple accepted price. This means that rather than seeing something's price and deciding it is too expensive, we can ogle items and imagine getting them for a bargain price, speculate on how high we would be willing to bid, and cast the first (often modest) offer with the good intention of pulling out of the auction once the price goes beyond our means. But by bidding on an item you inadvertently welcome it into your personal sphere of extended self – it starts to feel like it is kind of yours. So when someone else comes along and bids on it, suddenly they are bidding against you for *your* item, and the loss of it seems far more heart-breaking than if you had decided yourself that the price was too high. You bid higher and higher until it seems like a matter of personal pride as much as acquisition of goods. Suddenly you have placed a bid that is higher than what you had privately decided

was your maximum price, and you are locked into the deal.

An illusion of scarcity is at play on TradeMe. A feeling of being associated with something special or scarce can make us spend more money on an item because of its status rather than superior function or quality. Writer Charlie Brooker says of his desire to be seated in first-class areas of trains that "it's like you've been given a special fancy hat to wear." Once the value of an item is fixed in our minds, we rarely question it.

Following from this phenomenon is the "Sunk Cost Fallacy:" the compulsions to keep spending money in order to justify money spent in the past. For example, if your car breaks down and requires \$3,000 worth of repairs, but you could buy a new, better car for \$2,500, you may feel that to ditch your old car would be wasting the \$5000 you spent on it initially. And if you get it fixed and it breaks again, this time needing \$4,000 worth of repairs, it seems like you are wasting \$8,000 if you ditch it. The same goes for anything you own that you spent a lot of money on but now never use, but refuse to sell cheaply or give away because it would feel like you are losing the money you spent (even though it's already gone).

So while we may like to think that financial struggles in regular people are avoidable if we are smart, sometimes our brains can sabotage our best intentions and leave us with a whole lot of junk and nothing in the bank. The desire for nice things can be so strong that an otherwise nice guy like Elliot Castro can end up committing gross fraud and not feeling like he is really doing anything wrong. Or an intelligent person like Kelly can ignore rapidly growing debt because of a need to be accepted. And we can all get sucked into online auctions, be more dishonest than we think we are, spend money on "sunk costs," and feel the need for certain things because of their aura of specialness. Though it seems that the exchange and management of our money should be one of the most rational, straightforward aspects of our lives, our emotions and feelings have more sway over our financial decisions than we may be comfortable admitting.



THE UNDERBELLY OF DUNEDIN STREETS

With street harassment posing a constant threat of intimidation to the women of Dunedin, the OUSA Feminist Group presents a call to action for both bystanders and victims.

NOTE: THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS POTENTIALLY UPSETTING GRAPHIC COMMENTS.



WAS WALKING DOWN GEORGE STREET WITH MY BOYFRIEND ONE night when a group of guys walking behind me kept talking aloud between themselves saying things like, 'She'd get it' and 'She looks like she could take a dick.' It made me sad not only that they were saying things like that to me, but that my boyfriend didn't really know how to respond at all. I guess if he had stopped and said something to the guys they would have gotten aggressive, so it was a situation that neither of us could have fixed, really. Later he said to me, 'I guess girls just get used to it,' and he didn't really understand my response: 'Why should we?'"

It is interesting and saddening how normalised street harassment is. It is something that we rarely talk about, and yet, when the subject is raised, most people have a story to tell about how they have personally experienced street harassment, or at the very least, the fear of it. It is also important to recognise that, while this article outlines the gendered nature of street harassment incidents, other groups experience public harassment directed towards them, too. The 2013 European Union LGBT survey highlights that street harassment is also a major concern for LGBT people. 50 per cent of the 93,079 respondents of this survey (aged 18 years or over who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender) claimed that they avoided certain places or locations for fear of being assaulted, threatened or harassed because of being LGBT. Racially motivated street harassment is also an issue that has been raised in the international student community in Dunedin.

Gendered street harassment is unwanted and unwelcome attention in a public space, often of a sexual nature and usually directed at women. Wolf-whistles, excessive staring, graphic sexually violent comments, groping, stalking and public masturbation – most women experience at least some of these throughout their lives from strangers in public spaces. For many women, their regular occurrence prompts us to be conscious of the "safe" routes to our destination, spurs our crossing the street to avoid groups of chads or construction sites, and for some of us, causes constant anxiety in public spaces. International research indicates that over 70 per cent of women, and an unknown percentage of men, experience street harassment.

Even more troubling is that in most of these studies half of the women reported these experiences having a detrimental impact on their lives, resulting in many of them feeling unsafe in their neighbourhoods. The consequences of experiencing gendered street harassment on a regular basis, as is life for many women in Dunedin, are huge. The feelings of fear, anxiety, objectification and disgust do not fade easily, and they inform future decisions that women make when deciding where they can be in public, when and with whom. Self-esteem and self-worth may also be

affected for women who are subjected to these experiences. While there is little research available for the New Zealand context, just talking to women will elicit numerous stories of experiences of a wide range of threatening behaviour in public.

While most women will understand the frequent occurrence and level of gendered abuse and intimidation directed at women in public, many men may not know – or believe – how bad it can be. This is not simply an international problem that occurs in far-flung places. Street harassment takes place daily on George Street, on Castle Street, in the Octagon, at any time of the day or night. It's probably happened outside your flat. The culture of street harassment in Dunedin is not okay, and sharing our stories and shining light on the dirty underbelly of street harassment is a way to tackle it head-on. Make no mistake; we are not talking

“INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INDICATES THAT OVER 70 PER CENT OF WOMEN, AND AN UNKNOWN PERCENTAGE OF MEN, EXPERIENCE STREET HARASSMENT.”

about genuine compliments from socially awkward, misunderstood guys. Street harassers make their remarks with full disregard and disrespect to the woman targeted, as these quotes illustrate:

"I was browsing in St. Vincent de Pauls when a lone, tattooed, white male, about 30 years old, strode past, sized me up and announced loudly: 'Tall enough, but you got an ugly face, girl.' Then he stood and looked at me with a smug grin on his face. I was shaking with anger but was too intimidated to say anything,

for fear of being followed. No-one else in the shop said anything to him and it took me months to work up the courage to return to browse again."

"I have lost count of the revolting comments I have received from men of all ages walking past me while I am minding my own business in the day-time. The most memorable include: 'That girl looks like she needs a cock up her arse' (said by a 16-year-old boy in school uniform with his 10 other mates); 'That one looks like a good pussy' (said casually in earshot by two young men walking down George Street, middle of the day); and 'Give us a go!' (Shouted by a middle-aged man out of his car)."

"I was walking home from Uni when guys in a car yelled, 'I'm gonna fuck your pussy,' then they sped off. Not only is this language yuck but it frustrates me that I wasn't given the opportunity to respond."

“I’VE HAD A DUDE PHYSICALLY STOP ME ON THE STREET BEFORE WHEN I WOULDN’T PAY ATTENTION TO HIS CAT-CALLING AND I ACTUALLY THOUGHT I WAS GONNA BE ATTACKED. IT’S FUCKING SCARY.”

“I was waiting to cross the lights at Albany Street after walking home from the gym and a car full of guys stopped beside me. One of them politely said, ‘excuse me,’ so I turned around. I was then asked, ‘Do you squat?’ I responded by saying, ‘You don’t have the right to look at my body and make a comment about it.’ I was shaking and so intimidated. It had taken years of receiving gross comments from guys to actually say anything. While I’m glad I said something to them it took a huge amount of courage and I was actually really scared responding.”

“I was walking down the street with my mum when these guys drove past us. They lifted their shirts and pressed their chests against the car window, screaming at me. I was only 14 at the time and it made me feel so uncomfortable.”

“Walking down Moray Place on a weeknight I have experienced a group of five or so men standing across the road – all of them continuously wolf-whistled at me the entire time I was in their line of sight – for over a block. That level of scrutiny and invasion still makes me feel on edge whenever I hear someone wolf-whistle, wherever I am.”

Moreover, some at-first seemingly harmless harassers become aggressive when their comments go ignored or are confronted. Victims of gendered street harassment are often targeted when they are by themselves, and often by a group of harassers. This adds another level of fear for the victim as they are instantly at a disadvantage, and may feel powerless to either verbally or physically protect themselves. Dunedin women have shared scary experiences of men objectifying them, treating them as property and escalating the abuse when challenged; suggesting that they have a sense of entitlement to women’s attention and bodies, as these experiences highlight:

“A friend and I were walking home past The Cook at night and a drunk guy was outside. He called out ‘Hello, ladies’ and we

kept walking, engrossed in our conversation, so he aggressively spat on the ground and yelled out ‘SLUTS!’”

“I was walking home and some dude yells from a car, ‘you going to town?’ I ignored them and as they drove off he yelled, ‘I’ll shove my cock up your ass.’”

“I’ve had a dude physically stop me on the street before when I wouldn’t pay

attention to his cat-calling and I actually thought I was gonna be attacked. It’s fucking scary.”

These are the experiences of women from our local community and they occurred in public places that you have probably frequented before. These stories represent the tip of the iceberg, and are only a few examples of the countless incidences women experience on a regular basis. People that you know probably have

“AS LONG AS THERE ARE SOME MEN WHO BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACT THIS WAY BECAUSE THEY ARE MEN AND TOWARDS WOMEN BECAUSE THEY ARE WOMEN, THEN WE NEED TO SEE THIS AS A GENDERED ISSUE AND NOT JUST A CASE OF INDIVIDUALS BEING ASSHOLES.”

many more stories of their own that they could share. The striking prevalence and normalisation of harassment is why we felt compelled to write this article. So why does it happen? Is it just individual assholes? Then why is the aggressive language so similar? The above quotes from different women illustrate similar sexually violent language that these men used

to frighten women – much of the language invokes the threat of rape to gain a sense of control over them in public. There may be a variety of motivations; some harassers band together in groups to show off to their mates, while others are alone and have no-one to impress. Regardless of their individual motivations or character flaws, these stories are indicative of a minority of men’s assumed right to appraise women’s bodies, degrade them and assert authority over them. The feminist project of gender equality is still a much-needed

and attainable goal. For example, this from a Dunedin women, "I was in town with my friend, and as we were walking past a bar, a man grabbed me and refused to let me go. When I managed to forcefully pull away, he began shouting at me saying things like 'Fuck you! You're MY property,'" exemplifies the gendered power dynamic that exists in these instances of street harassment. As long as there are some men who believe they have the right to act this way *because* they are men and towards women *because* they are women, then we need to see this as a gendered issue and not just a case of individuals being assholes. It is attributable to a broader social set of gender relations that this behaviour is a regular, normalised occurrence. All people should be able to freely move around public spaces without fear of harassment and the negative emotional consequences that can arise from this harassment. The fact that this is not possible for all women demands our calls for action.

SOLUTIONS

There are a plethora of things that each of us can do to tackle this culture of street harassment in Dunedin.

First, we need to acknowledge that gendered street harassment is NOT a compliment, nor is it the victim's fault. Street harassment is unwanted and makes the victim feel uncomfortable, scared, intimidated or embarrassed and shares no common ground with a compliment. By dismissing street harassment as a compliment, it dismisses the experience of the victim, and the way it made them feel.

Secondly, we need to start standing up for people who are harassed. This can be done in a variety of ways and is one way that men can really help lower occurrences of street harassment. Bystander intervention is one such strategy. Created as a rape prevention strategy, it is most associated with the work of Vicki Banyard and her colleagues at the University of New Hampshire. The bystander approach works from two key premises: First, that sexual violence is a social and structural issue rather than the problem of individuals. Second, it works from an understanding of sexual violence as a continuum of behaviours ranging from healthy, age-appropriate, respectful, and safe behaviours to sexual abuse, rape, and violent behaviours. Between these two points are other behaviours – where street harassment is situated – that begin to feel inappropriate, coercive, and harassing.

In order for this strategy to be effective, individuals need to notice that something is happening, recognise the event as a behaviour along the sexual violence continuum, take responsibility for providing help, know how to intervene and choose to intervene safely. From this perspective, people may intervene in situations at one end of the continuum, such as stopping a friend

from making sexually harassing comments to someone in the street. The value of this approach is that it means each person can be engaged in preventing sexual violence by taking small and straightforward actions in less extreme situations. When you hear someone harassing someone else, call them out on it. Tell them it's not okay. Coming from a friend or a peer, being told that harassing behaviour is not okay is an effective way to tackle street harassment.

Third, we can share our stories of harassment in Dunedin with each other and support people who have been a victim of street harassment. This can be done by providing a sensitive and caring place to talk through what has happened, rather than dismiss-

“WHEN YOU HEAR SOMEONE HARASSING SOMEONE ELSE, CALL THEM OUT ON IT. TELL THEM IT’S NOT OKAY. COMING FROM A FRIEND OR A PEER, BEING TOLD THAT HARASSING BEHAVIOUR IS NOT OKAY IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO TACKLE STREET HARASSMENT.”

ing the harassment as a compliment, joke or not important. Not only does this legitimise the feelings that victims of street harassment experience, but it also makes clear how normalised and invisible this culture of harassment is and may spur the community to acknowledge the problem, and harassers to examine their behaviour.

The global mobilisation of feminists and their allies raising awareness about street harassment has spurred the development of online websites, smart-phone applications to record incidences and map

harassment "hot spots," regular news articles highlighting the problem and a variety of poster campaigns aimed at problematising this behaviour. ihollaback.org is one such website which states that it is "powered by local activists in 71 cities and 24 countries." It provides a platform for people to share their experiences and receive support from others. At the local level, the OUSA feminist club has created a tumblr page and is inviting people to share their street harassment diaries. This space gives people an opportunity to detail their experiences within a length of time – depending on how regular street harassment is for them. You can submit your experiences here: mystreetharassmentdiary.tumblr.com. We will also be holding events throughout the year, so watch this space. The more we speak out about this issue and its prevalence, the more support we can mobilise to change this culture of abuse.



THE PERPLEXITY OF SIN

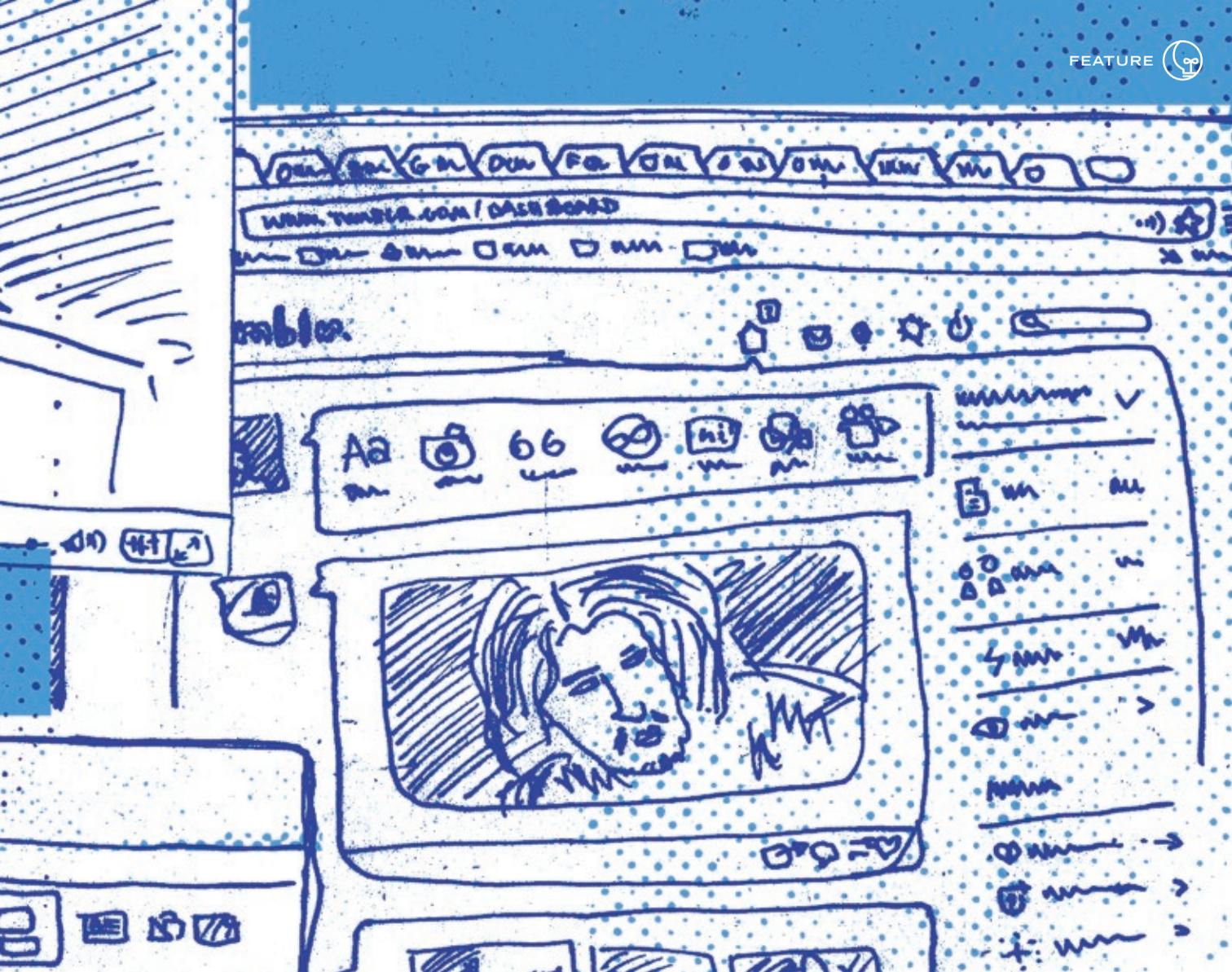
The origin and history of sloth stigma and related ideologies

We've all heard of the big, bad Seven Deadly Sins, but where did they originate? *Lydia Adams* has a glance at their history, religious parallels, and possible modern-day alternatives.

AS I SAT THERE AT MY DIMLY-LIT DESK, thinking of all the possible things I could have done in my life to deserve such an unstable Internet connection, it suddenly hit me – I loved sloths too much. Slothfulness is meant to be one of the big, bad Seven Deadly Sins, yet I held a torch for their physical embodiment. I had fallen into the trap that is human wickedness. Damn. I closed a few unnecessary browser tabs and tried turning my Internet off then on again. It worked. Salvation was mine! I self-high-fived and continued

my *Parks and Recreation* marathon, but in the back of my mind I began to think, how can sloth be a sin when sloths are so gosh darn adorable? Who created this list of man's "worst" vices and what was their purpose in making such a list? Much research ensued.

Almost every person in the western world has heard of the "Seven Deadly Sins." During a survey of people who would talk to me while walking through the link, it was found that everyone had heard of the big bad sins, but



only eight out of 18 people could name them all. That's approximately 40 per cent of our total student body. I then walked around the University's campus and asked 20 other students what they thought of sloths. I'll tell you right now that not one of them had a nasty thing to say. "Sloths are adorable," said one lady, after listening to my haiku that goes;

*How can sloths be bad?
They light up my life and yours,
Sloths are happiness.*

Although many people struggle to name all seven of the deadly sins, the general idea is well understood; lust, gluttony, greed, envy, pride, wrath, and sloth, are humanity's most atrocious immoralities. Apparently.

Hundreds of years ago, it was decided that man's evil desires should be highlighted, and possible avoidance strategies should be taught to church-going crowds for the rest of time. Contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not contain a list of seven sins that are worse than all the others. The modern list of wickedness was in fact adapted from the works of fourth-Century monk Evagrius Ponticus who wrote of eight evil thoughts: Γαστριμαργία (gluttony); Πορνεία (fornication); Φιλαργυρία (greed); Υπερηφανία (hubris); Λύπη (envy); Όργη (wrath); Κενοδοξία (boasting); and Άκηδία (apathy). In AD 590, Pope Gregory I revised Evagrius' list into what is now commonly known as the Seven Deadly Sins.

The Catholic Church also created a list of Seven Heavenly Virtues, to counter the Seven Deadly Sins. These virtues were identified as chastity,

temperance, charity, diligence, patience, kindness, and humility. Church-going audiences were taught that practicing these virtues would protect them against the temptation and allure of the Seven Deadly Sins. Which might sound like one of those teachings old-time Protestants got angry about. You know, "If you do this, salvation is yours!" But I for one ain't gonna get too mad at encouraging patience and kindness in opposition to wrath and envy.

In 2008, the Vatican introduced seven "new" sins that were supposedly running far more rampant than the previous bunch. These "new" sins were: environmental pollution; genetic manipulation; financial gluttony; inflicting poverty; drug trafficking/consumption; human experiments; and social injustice. Much more modernised, I suppose, and I'm glad to see that sloths have been

removed from the equation. Being named after one of man's wicked vices wasn't exactly the greatest of starts for our fantastic furry friends. Though to our daily, student lives, the new sins don't seem to have much relevance – other than, maybe, shining a light on our vicious littering and inadequate recycling habits. Maybe we as students can point the finger at our government for inflicting poverty on us (oh, the sweet taste of self-righteousness) but mostly it seems like the Vatican has science and wealth in its sights. Way to ruin all the fun, you guys! These "new" versions of the Seven Deadly Sins really didn't take, though. I can only assume the Vatican at that time had a bad publicist.

You know what I think is a deadly sin? Airport delays; cancelling and transferring between flights, spending eight hours in transit when it should've only taken four. And rudeness to service staff. To those assholes at restaurants that sit there treating the wait staff like crap because in your minds you're Joffrey fknk Baratheon and the staff are lowly peasants who live only to cater to your every whim: you suck.

Another deadly sin? Cat-calling. Just stop it. Plastic bags, you too. Hawaii has recently outlawed the commercial use of plastic bags. You go, Hawaii! Crocs. Bad haircuts. Treating Facebook like a diary, when you could purchase a perfectly good notebook that won't laugh or chat back when you've had the worst day ever getting the wrong Starbucks order and misplacing your Karen Walker sunglasses. Hash-tagging and saying, "YOLO," or "LOL," in real life. Not cool.

When Evagrius the monk sat down to note the evil thoughts and concerns he felt humanity was responsible for, he wrote eight of them. Pope Gregory I took Evagrius' ideas and narrowed the list to seven. Seven seems a strange number to encompass all of the sinful temptations our world presents. A bit low, perhaps? There are so many terrible things people do that could

be considered "deadly sins," but we know that. You'd have to be living under a dome of steel-enforced rock to not notice how nasty humans can often be.

Even the finest of optimists among us know that people are inherently not super nice, so then what? Do we announce to the masses that there are seven major things that they're all doing wrong and hope that fixing just a few

“The idea of listing our vices and temptations is not an idea that solely belongs to Catholicism. In fact, many religions all over the globe have had similar ideas.”

will make the world a better place? Nonsense. When someone leaves a napkin they've dropped on the ground instead of moving it to a trashcan, they know they're littering; knowing that doesn't change the fact that they're still going to leave it there. Encouraging the world's human population to adhere to the Seven Heavenly Virtues wouldn't go down very well, either. Chastity? The most effective form of birth control, sure, but no matter how often churches and religious fanatics talk up abstinence it will never be a thing. Stop trying to make celibacy happen, it's not going to happen! Better to educate on all forms of birth control than keep people in the dark.

The idea of listing our vices and temptations is not an idea that solely belongs to Catholicism. In fact, many religions all over the globe have had similar ideas. In Hindu theology, Arishadvarga are the six passions of human mind and desire: kama (lust); krodha (anger); lobh (greed); moha (delusional attachment); mada (pride); and matsarya (envy). Sikhism hold the same principles, except they are known as the Five Evils and do not include matsarya (envy). It is believed within both the Arishadvarga and the Five Evils that lust and anger are the two vices that lead to most types of difficult experiences in each of our lives. In Buddhism, kleshas are mental states that supposedly cloud the mind and manifest themselves into unpleasant behaviour. Kleshas include a multitude of emotions, such as fear, depression, anxiety, jealousy and anger. In modern Buddhist traditions, there are three kleshas that have been identified as the root of all other "mind poisons," and they are ignorance, attachment, and aversion. These are frequently referred to as the Three Poisons.

As my research into the origin and history of the Seven Deadly Sins continued, I found myself beginning to wonder, what would the modern versions of the classic Seven be? Aside from the Vatican's perspective, there are other human behaviours that could easily be seen as far more destructive and widespread than the likes of human experimentation. For example:

IGNORANCE:

Buddhism has it right in stating that ignorance is a source of hate, anger, fear and, often, downright rudeness. A single person's opinion is not the only existing opinion. Despite what you may have heard throughout your life about a personal opinion not being right or wrong – that it's merely a perspective – that is total and utter poppycock. Opinions can absolutely be wrong. Being ignorant is to be in a state of unawareness and to act with a lack of knowledge. Religious enthusiasts and all those who encourage the

persecution of people with different lifestyle choices to their own are unquestionably ignorant. How dare someone prefer to live a life that is separate to yours? The cheek of it all! Ignorance often leads to unsavoury behaviour, which is not pleasant for anyone involved. Get educated, be open-minded, be happy!

OPPRESSION:

Sexism, racism, homophobia ... the list goes on when it comes to people pushing their beliefs onto everyone else. Stop it. History has proven that you're the bad guy, so get on the good guy bandwagon and try to not be such a dick sometimes. One act of oppression that isn't talked about all too often is the harassment of mothers who breastfeed in public spaces. Far too many times have I overheard the tittering and tut-tutting of disapproving individuals in the park or at a café. Are you serious? Babies need to be fed! You were, and how would you feel if your mother had been spoken about in such a way? Shame on you, silly person. "Change your oppressive ways, you'll have friends for days," said everyone ever.

PASSIVISM:

It's all well and fair to not want to start a fight, or not get involved when something happens that you don't agree with. Sometimes that just isn't good enough. You know how every now and then when you and the boys are hitting the clubs on a Saturday night, and one of your bros might start groping a very clearly intoxicated girl? You should stop him. Pull him aside and say, "Bro, she's too drunk." It's that easy, but people have just stopped caring. Where are all the good old-fashioned protests for which universities used to be renowned? When did we, as students, stop caring about the bigger picture? Last year only around 25 per cent of our student body voted in the OUSA presidential election, and that was considered unusually high. Come on! No one is that apathetic that they can't be bothered signing a quick petition or spending five minutes speaking with a friend who has been feeling down. Caring more about life and doing something that might make a real-life difference in the real world is in no way a bad thing.

“Last year only around 25 per cent of our student body voted in the OUSA presidential election, and that was considered unusually high. Come on!”

EGOCENTRISM:

We've all heard the saying, "the world doesn't revolve around you," and for the most part, people get it. Sometimes, though, there are those others who just ... don't. For example, packing up your things before a lecturer or demonstrator has finished is so disrespectful. You may have coffee plans with Ruby in 10 minutes but gosh darn it you will sit there and be quiet. Not only is the zipping-up of your backpack loud and disruptive but aren't you there to learn from the person speaking? Their knowledge is power! Learn from them, be successful; be cool, stay in school.

BULLYING:

Almost every single person on this planet has at least a slight understanding of bullying. Many of us have experienced this tragedy of human mentality. Bullying is awful, dreadful behaviour. Purposely making another person feel sad or physically unsafe is a terrible thing to do! Bullies confuse me, because it seems like a genuinely alien state of mind to want another human being or animal to feel inferior and lesser than they really are. Does this need to be further elaborated? Simply put, can u fkkn not? Thnx.

LYING FOR SELFISH PURPOSES:

Humans really hit the jackpot on selfishness when they figured out that they didn't have to be honest all the time. If a friend needs help relocating to a new flat and you're suddenly cough cough "sick," you are a slightly selfish

friend. Lying to make people feel better isn't always the best option either. Telling your friend that "everything will be fine," when you have no idea of knowing whether or not that's true is alright most of the time, but if your friend has had the week from hell occasionally they just need someone to sit there and say, "Hey, that sucks, I'm sorry you're having a crappy week." I was on holiday with one of my closest friends once, when he suddenly started having a sniffly-sneezy hayfever fit. I didn't have any antihistamines with me, but I did have a bunch of vitamin E pills. I gave him one of those and told him it was an antihistamine. He stopped sneezing after a short period of time. High-five, placebo effect! Conversely, gossiping and spreading rumours that make you seem like a better person than someone else really is not very nice. You can make perfectly fantastic friends without lying to them.

So there we have six new sins. Not seven, because although there are many more bad habits of human nature that could be discussed, if I continued I may never stop. To quote one of history's great philosophers, Jay-Z, "I got 99 problems, but a lack of cynicism ain't one." Those may not be his exact words but they're close enough.

The moral of this story on immorality is that the planet is fine, but the people are a bit shit. Although, if you're reading this, then congratulations on being alive! If that isn't something worth smiling about, then I don't know what is.



Critic's infamous blind date column brings you weekly shutdowns, hilariously mismatched pairs, and the occasional hookup. Each week, we lure two singletons to Di Lusso, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email critic@critic.co.nz. But be warned – if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a *Critic* writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

♂ JACKIE CHAN

I WAS SITTING DOWN WITH MY FRIEND LIANNE, HAVING A LAUGH OR TWO ABOUT *Critic* when the novel idea of signing up for a blind date became a reality. "Study abroad is about challenges" were my famous last words as I sent the email request through. Fast-forward a month later and I was posted in Di Lusso, palms sweaty, ready to embrace a potential date from hell. I had already skulled three to four standards and as a good friend once bluntly pronounced, "ready to get it on with a girl that was uglier than me."

My date was a fashionable fifteen minutes late but the smile she put on as she strutted into the bar was worth the wait. Fortunately she was much cuter than I had anticipated and possessed a real charm to her. Immediately I was drawn into her friendly and outgoing personality.

The date was going swell when all of a sudden a group of friends spilled into the previously empty spaces of Di Lusso. They had all come from a BYO and were way more drunk than the two of us. "This is my nightmare," I thought to myself. No better cock-block than 15 drunk international students. My friend Haico even posted up behind her and gazed at me for a good 10 minutes as if we were locked in a starring contest.

Needless to say, my date handled the distractions like a champ and we continued on with our romantic rendezvous. We ended up staying at Di Lusso until we ran our tab dry. As we proceeded to leave I could tell there were no sparks in the air so I politely hugged her goodbye and began my journey home. Not the best case scenario but I guess if it wasn't meant to be, then it wasn't meant to be. I grabbed a bottle of shitty wine on the way home and ended my night by watching *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*. What a great film.

♀ GOLDEN SPARROW

A S A FOURTH YEAR STUDENT, I THOUGHT I'D EXPERIENCED MOST SCARFIE experiences: sinking jugs at The Cook, smashing holes through walls at red cards, and the occasional cheeky hook up at Monkey Bar. Yet one experience had not yet been fulfilled on my Otago bucket list: the *Critic* Blind Date. Thanks to my good friend who happens to work there, she decided to take my drunken Saturday night words for real and turned them into reality.

Date night arrived and I psyched myself up with a few cheeky vodkas, with the flatmates giving crucial advice beforehand: keep it cool, crack jokes and don't be weirder than you already are. A lot tiddier than I should have been, I headed into Di Lusso.

When my date introduced himself, I was greeted with a Jackie Chan-esque look alike, but alas he was a smooth talking exchange student from Los Angeles. We started yarning, blurted our way through the tab and made the most of the snazzy drinks – because, let's be honest, what student drinks anything other than \$8 bottles of wine? We ambled through the basic "get-to-know-you" questions and I discovered that my date in fact has Hollywood connections with washed-up actor Adam Sandler. Secretly I'm stoked that I now have a foot in the door to become a superstar, or the next Lindsay Lohan.

Several cocktails later, we become interrupted by a mutual friend who had "just happened to be in the area" and thought it would be hilarious to check up on us. The interrupter even bought two shots for my date and I, just after helping herself to the food sitting at our table.

Unfortunately with that, our date and bar tab came to an end. Both of us departed ways in the Octagon to other engagements (in my case, to go home and play with the flat cat). Cheers *Critic* for a blind date that was nowhere near as terrifying as anticipated! And sorry to all the readers who are still waiting on a kinky date write up. Unfortunately the kinky thing that happened that night was pulling out the sprinkler dance move at a flat later on.

BELONGING BY VARIOUS ARTISTS

DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY
EXHIBITED UNTIL 31 MARCH 2015

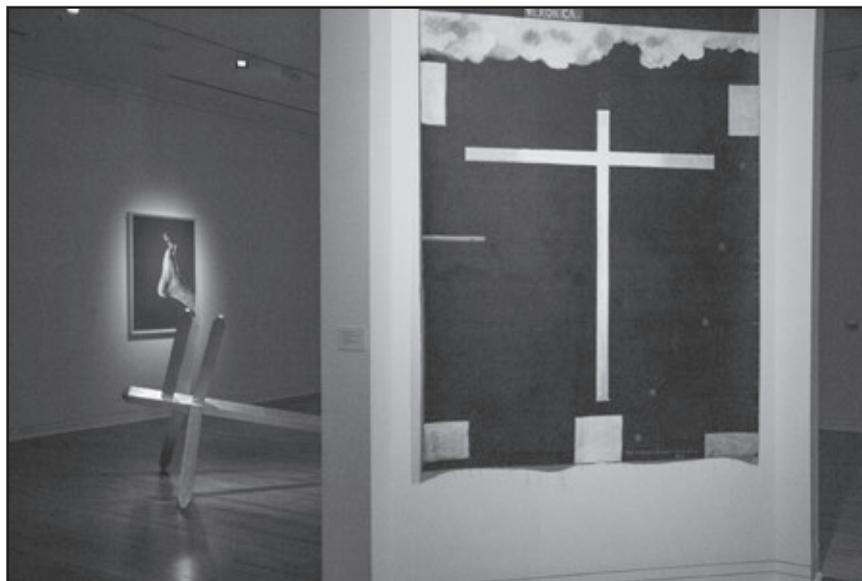
THE DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY'S *Belonging* displays a privately owned collection of works that features various artists (national and international) whose work is both bold and rich in religious references, symbolism and iconography, including the cross, crucifixion, angels, the bare foot (which is known as a sign of humility and respect) and the pieta (the Virgin Mary cradling the dead body of Jesus).

Since the birth of Christ and the tales of his existence that have been told thereafter (those spiritual stories that comprise the fabric of all religions), people have expressed an inherent desire to belong or to be important to something; something greater than themselves. *Belonging* raises questions about the role of religion in modern life and how much faith we should really put in these material fabrications.

The collection begins appropriately with Colin McCahon's "The Five Wounds of Christ, No. 3" (1977-1978.) Centred in the blackness of the canvas, a white cruciform hovers and Christ's body is assumed to be the form of the cross he died on. At the canvas edges, the five wounds he suffered are represented as angelic white light; ghostly apertures, small white windows on the surface that open into the blackness of the canvas.

McCahon's paintings are always rich in visual cues for its viewers, and here the central clue is the word "Veronica." As Christ struggled toward the cross, a woman called Veronica wiped his face with her veil, which picked up a bloody imprint of Christ's features. The story of Veronica's veil was clearly an instructive one for McCahon, who wanted his paintings to do more than just illustrate the mystery of faith and resurrection. He wanted paintings like this to do what Veronica's veil did – to offer a material trace of that mystery.

Moreover, the black paint that covers the work contains the artist's own handprints, as if he were pressing his own body against the surface of the work; metaphorically testing the



depths of the darkness he has created. Like any other McCahon, its conceptual complexities lie in its visual austerity.

The next piece in the collection is Jacopo del Casentino's "Two wings from a Tryptich" (c. 1340-1350). Small in size, and executed in gold and tempera, the two-thirds altarpiece displays classic biblical imagery – most obviously the crucifixion of Christ on the left. Though the image on the lower right panel seems to be the most curious to a modern viewer, which shows St Francis of Assisi receiving the stigmata – the wounds corresponding to those received by Christ on the cross. Francis was one of the most well known Christian saints who reputedly lived from 1182 to 1226. Born into a wealthy family, he renounced his former life after a series of revelations from God (... beautiful).

The following piece is a photograph by Giovanni Intra, "X: Best After 33 AD," (1993), which features what seems to be the foot of Christ in a contemporary medical perspective. After all, the artist's intention was "to show what would happen if Christ turned up to the Auckland hospital." The decaying foot is photographed against an antiseptic-blue background. Although the intention to reflect a morgue-type situation is clear enough, the image is just revolting and uncomfortable to look at, and for such reasons,

I can't help but feel it was at odds with the rest of the work displayed.

There are numerous sketches and engravings, which follow on the next wall, including pieces such as Lucas Van Leyden's "The Crucifixion" (1517) and Annibale Garracci's "Pieta" (1597).

Finally, tipped onto the centre of the gallery floor, is "The Deposition" (2002) by John Reynolds, a large polished aluminium sculpture in the shape of, what appears to be, a signpost. The sculpture carries no words or imagery, and completely surrenders the upright authority we expect of any sign. Reynolds seems to be laying his own cross-like signpost motif to rest, and in the process extending his career-long conversation with New Zealand's most famous painter of crucifixions and Christian imagery, Colin McCahon. With its nameless surfaces, Reynolds' "Deposition" pointedly declines to give visual aids as McCahon's work does. The sculpture is, instead, literally and metaphorically reflective – a place to pause and consider the meaning of whatever journey we have just completed. Similar to the other works displayed in the collection, the act of looking in such an instance becomes an act of faith.

By Hannah Collier | @HannahCollier21

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CROSS FINGERS

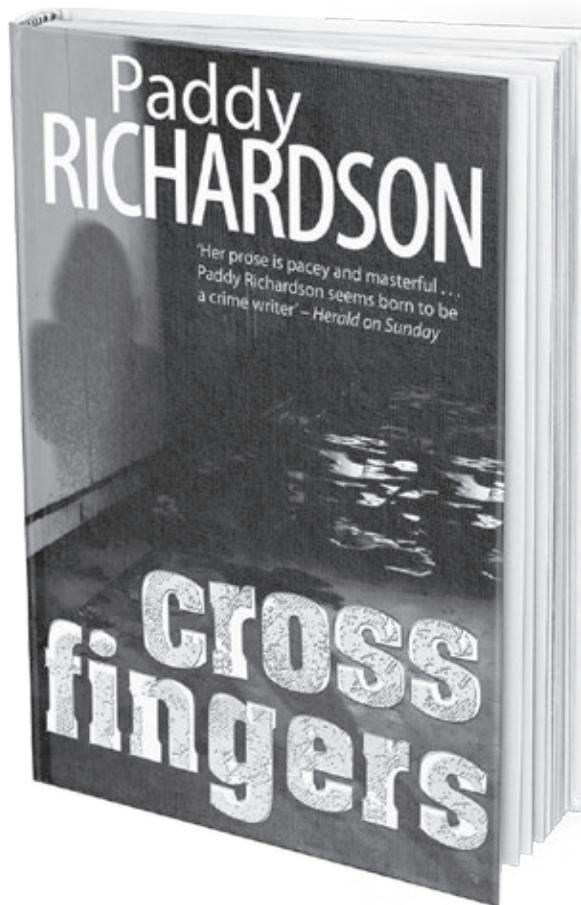
BY PADDY RICHARDSON

CROSS FINGERS IS A THRILLER BY PADDY Richardson. The tagline says that *Cross Fingers* is, in fact, psychological crime fiction, but I don't feel that the pacing gives you time to stop and think. So thriller it is. One Rebecca Thorne, a not too hard-assed, plucky reporter lady who gets sexually and otherwise harassed, but eventually triumphs over adversity, narrates the story. You probably know the type. She's very much the type.

Rebecca is about to pull together a documentary exposing the depravity of a crooked property-investment jerk, when her boss pulls her off that to make a documentary about the Springbok tour protests instead. Rebecca considers the subject to have been covered enough already, but for those of you too young, poorly educated, and/or foreign to know anything about the Springbok tours, allow me to explain.

There were a bunch of white people living in South Africa who were being racist douchenozzles. A huge hunk of the New Zealand population were pretty sure that they didn't want to play sports with said racist douchenozzles and decided to yell about it on the street. Another hunk of the New Zealand population were pretty sure that they wanted, nay, needed to play sports with everyone that they could possibly play sports with, and that included racists. The NZ Government was all like, "Come on, people of New Zealand. Why can't you just let the white South Africans have their racism? They are living the dream and you are ruining it for everyone. We can't just let a mob decide for everyone that racism is bad and we shouldn't condone it. Awh, screw it, guys, let's unleash the police brutality." (Note that claims of police brutality are contested and it may in fact be possible that no policeperson ever kicked a non-violent protester in the head because they felt like it.) While all this was going on, the actual rugby players were a bit bewildered and just wanted to play rugby.

Basically it was all a great big ugly mess, and you should be very grateful that you live in a time where people protest racism on Tumblr instead of on the street, and police brutality en masse is a trillion times more likely to be condemned when it is recorded on someone's phone and everyone can see it for themselves.



"I gotta say. You don't need to know about the tour to enjoy the book, but none of the necessary exposition is clumsily handled, and the subject itself is so interesting that you'll actually believe learning is fun. Richard's prose is nothing fancy, but competent; it does the job of story transference well, and moves fast."

Richardson deals with this difficult subject matter pretty damn competently, I gotta say. You don't need to know about the tour to enjoy the book, but none of the necessary exposition is clumsily handled, and the subject itself is so interesting that you'll actually believe learning is fun. Richard's prose is nothing fancy, but competent; it does the job of story transference well, and moves fast.

For these reasons and more, I really enjoyed reading this story, right up until the point

where its whodunit-reveal turned out to be some tiresome reiteration of a vapid hate-cliché. Obviously I can't tell you what this mildly surprising twist is, since spoilers are like the reviewer's bad touch or whatever. But I don't think I can in good conscience recommend a book that I enjoyed right up until the point where it really bummed me out, though I did think it was worth reading right until I realised it wasn't.

By Bridget Vosburgh | @CriticTeArohi

THE OBSERVER - HOW TO DRESS SPORTY CASUAL



Bassike stripe French sleeve, Nike women's revival pant, Yankees cap and New Balance 574s.



Chase long sleeve top from RUBY, Sleeveless puffer from Witchery, Nike Swoosh pant and Windsor Smith slides from Andrea Biani.



Baseball top from Country Road, Lonely Hearts drawstring short from Belle Bird, Bobble beanie from Glassons and Converse Chuck Taylors from Rebel Sport.



Nudie striped raglan from ASOS, Commoner's fleece pant and Huffer down vest from Slick Willy's.

AS NEW ZEALAND'S FUTURE ACADEMIA, YOU may have thought that there was absolutely nothing that you could stand to learn from the desperate housewives of New Zealand. However, it is a truth that if we did not have housewives, we would not have sporty casual; and if we did not have sporty casual, we would not have a socially acceptable solution to dressing comfortably for Uni. For there will always be days where real clothes seem like too much of a psychological obstacle. Fortunately we here at the Observer have come up with handy hints on how to dress sporty casual so that you may never come on campus dressed like a homeless person.

1. Sporty casual, as the name suggests, is the beautiful union of two distinct concepts. Therefore one's outfit must incorporate both. If this is all too much for one to process (perhaps one is from Southland?) we advise dressing casual on top and sporty on bottom.
2. When it comes to trackpants, one must navigate this minefield with caution. If one finds oneself wearing polyester school trackies with zips up the side then one has stepped on TNT and anything grey and baggy from

the Warehouse is the fabric equivalent of an atomic bomb. Note that cuffed pants, such as those by Commoner's, come highly recommended by the sporty casual Gods. However, beware of awkward sock situations.

3. Puffer vests are the goose-down equivalent of a hug but be wary of being mistaken for a mobile trash bag (a likely consequence of shopping at Kathmandu). We recommend investing in a Huffer puffer or getting fancy in a fur trim puffer from Witchery.
4. Gentlemen: socks and slides are a no-go. This isn't a campground and one isn't a pervert.
5. Acceptable sporty casual footwear options include Nike Roche's, New Balance 574's, Converse, Vans and Windsor Smith Slides. Unacceptable footwear options include real sport shoes (you know the ones we mean) and flip-flops.
6. One must not actually do sport in one's sporty casual attire. Does one think that the founding housewives ever actually went to the gym post-school-drop-off? Of course not. Sporty casual is about maintaining appearances when one's brain feels like a potato.

By Emma & Liam | @CriticTeArohi

STREET STYLE



Gabby (studying Bachelor of Arts) - is wearing Nike shoes, Topshop pants, AS Colour top and H&M shirt.



Chris (studying microbiology and textiles) is wearing Nike shoes and pants, Our Legacy jersey, Shades of Grey jacket, Norse Projects hat and Deadly Ponies bag.

By Helen & Grace | @CriticTeArohi

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B+ | SUNSHINE ON LEITH

DIRECTED BY DEXTER FLETCHER

YOU MAY KNOW THE PROCLAIMERS AS THOSE Scottish guys who sang "I would walk 500 miles, and I would walk 500 more, just to be the man who walked a thousand miles before I'm at your door." Yeah, you know what I'm talking about. Turns out they have heaps of other songs, and are really super rich because someone made a musical out of all the songs. AND NOW IT'S A FILM. I know, right – how does this shit get past us?

Sunshine on Leith is not like the film musicals we're used to – it's not set during the French Revolution, or in a 1920s women's prison, or a historic whore-house, but a quiet and deeply middle class suburb of Edinburgh, with characters that could easily be based on your own family. There's no denying, it's not the most exhilarating thing I've ever seen, and I did at one point become quite overwhelmed by the sheer ordinariness of it all, but this film just feels good to watch. It's like eating hearty tomato soup ... through your eyes.

Initially, the normality made it difficult to accept when people spontaneously broke into song and choreographed dance routines (it just feels right in the Moulin Rouge – not so much in a dairy) but the startling WTF?! moments are neutralised by having characters largely singing



in situations you might expect someone to, such as during a public speech or in a pub. However, whenever they diverged too far from reality and attempted more artificial theatrics, it just got awkward. Thankfully, these scenes are few and far between and once you know that every remotely important point in the narrative will be accompanied by song you start to love it. Hell, you start to crave it.

No one in the cast is a blow your socks off singer, and there's no doubt you could recreate the dance moves in your bedroom, but the characters are good, honest people, and they will make you FEEL. Sure, this is a movie for your mum, but mums are nice, and clever and sweet, just like Sunshine on Leith. Naw.

By Rosie Howells | @CriticTeArohi

CULT FILM | THE FLY (1986)

DIRECTED BY DAVID CRONENBERG

CAST YOUR MINDS BACK, TO A TIME BEFORE computers, when filmmakers were stretching the minds and imaginations of millions of moviegoers without the help of CGI. It's getting harder and harder to remember such a thing, especially as such effects become cheaper and easier for any filmmaker to use. But there was a time when the unimaginable was created using only costume and the creativity of the directors. There are many great costume effects from this era, such as Alien and anything from the original Star Wars films. However, in my opinion, the greatest movie monster of this time was David Cronenberg's *The Fly*.

Jeff Goldblum plays the brilliant young scientist Seth Brundle, who has quietly unlocked the secrets of teleportation. The first half of this film is Brundle's victory lap. The shy, young scientist is about to change the world and has already scored the girl, a journalist (Genna Davis) who is also documenting his discovery. That is



until Brundle takes the leap, deciding to use himself as a human test subject. The teleportation works perfectly, or so it seems. Unfortunately for Brundle, a fly snuck into the chamber with him and their DNA was combined.

So the transformation from man to fly begins. The real brilliance of Cronenberg's monster is just that: the transformation. We follow Brundle through each excruciating moment of his metamorphosis. The ideas put into these changes are designed to be as deeply affecting as possible by tapping into the innate and universal body fears we all have. I mean, fingernails and teeth falling

out are straight from the psychology textbook. But that's what it is about Brundle's disgusting and disturbing transformation that gets under your skin – you can't help but go through the transformation with him.

David Cronenberg's *The Fly*, despite being almost 30 years old, is still hugely relevant today because it voices fears that we have, and will always have, about our bodies. And on top of that, it's just a superbly written, performed and directed movie.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac



B **BAD NEIGHBOURS**

DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS STOLLER

IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE THE HEYDAY OF THE Frat comedy, but it seems that this genre is without a bottom. *Bad Neighbours* tells the story of a married couple Mac (Seth Rogen) and Kelly (Rose Byrne) who have just had their first child and bought a house, when a frat moves in next door. At first their new neighbours, led by Teddy (Zac Efron) and Pete (Dave Franco), offer the couple an exciting new lifestyle. But when things get too much, they ring the cops and the war begins.

Bad Neighbours wanted badly to be *Superbad*, a comedy that takes audiences on

a wacky adventure and lands some moving character development. There were even a few scenes that had been taken directly from *Superbad*, such as two best friends screaming at each other about their diverging futures and exchanging drunken I-love-yous. But unlike *Superbad*, *Bad Neighbours'* script was just too heavy-handed to ever achieve the same effect. Multiple times themes were clumsily introduced, such as divorce, and then uncomfortably woven into later scenes.

However, despite the often-ineffective story, what it does do beautifully is gag comedy. Not many movies offer comedians a platform to have this many gags, but the premise is ripe for practical jokes and schemes. Each joke tops

the previous one, getting more outrageous as the movie progresses. Some scenes, such as those involving airbags and breast milk, are some of the best comedy moments I've seen in a long time.

Rogen gives his classic, but as always effective, performance as the stoner Jew whilst comedy newcomer Rose Bryne offered some unique eccentricity as the edgy but lovable Kelly. But undoubtedly the star of this movie is their infant baby Stella, who might be the most adorable and active baby I have ever seen in a film.

Bad Neighbours is not a classic comedy, but it is a guaranteed laugh.

By *Baz Macdonald* | @kaabazmac



B **TRANSCENDENCE**

DIRECTED BY WALLY PFISTER

TRANSCENDENCE RAISES A LOT OF QUESTIONS. Why was no one prosecuted for the excessive law breaking? How did the terrorists and the FBI become buddies? Why am I so bothered by the slow-mo shot of water droplets falling off a sunflower?

Johnny Depp is the smartest computer geek in the world and everyone is in love with

him; his wife helps him put his cuff links on, his friends laugh at his quirky facial expressions ... You know, super cutesy things like that. Life is pretty swell for old Johnny, until he admits that he is building a supercomputer infinitely more intelligent than the combined minds of every person ever, which gets him shot. In the interest of avoiding spoilers I won't say too much more on the plot, except that about a third of the way through the film you will know who to cast if you're ever doing a *Hell Raiser* re-make.

Seriously, I laughed out loud, and inappropriately, when they showed Mr Depp, head bald and covered in pins (I think they were actually electrodes but the similarity was delightful).

My inappropriate laughter became frequent, much to the dismay of my fellow cinemagoers, but I couldn't help it. The problem with this film is that it has a lot of lofty aspirations and wants to touch on them very seriously. But the execution lacks gravity; a lot of the dialogue isn't believable, the special effects (which are actually pretty cool) are used too often, and the parameters of the film's universe continually extend and change. The suspension of my disbelief eventually gave way and I just ended up going along for the ride and a giggle.

This film, in spite of its issues, is a really entertaining watch. There are some great moments: Morgan Freeman does some voice-overs; things rebuild themselves using Nanotechnology; and did I mention that there's a scene where Jonny Depp does a *Hell Raiser* impersonation? Classic.

By *Sydney Lehman* | @CriticTeArohi



CORN FRITTERS

IN MY THIRD YEAR, IF OUR FLAT WAS A COUNTRY, its national dish would have been corn fritters. Corn fritters for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

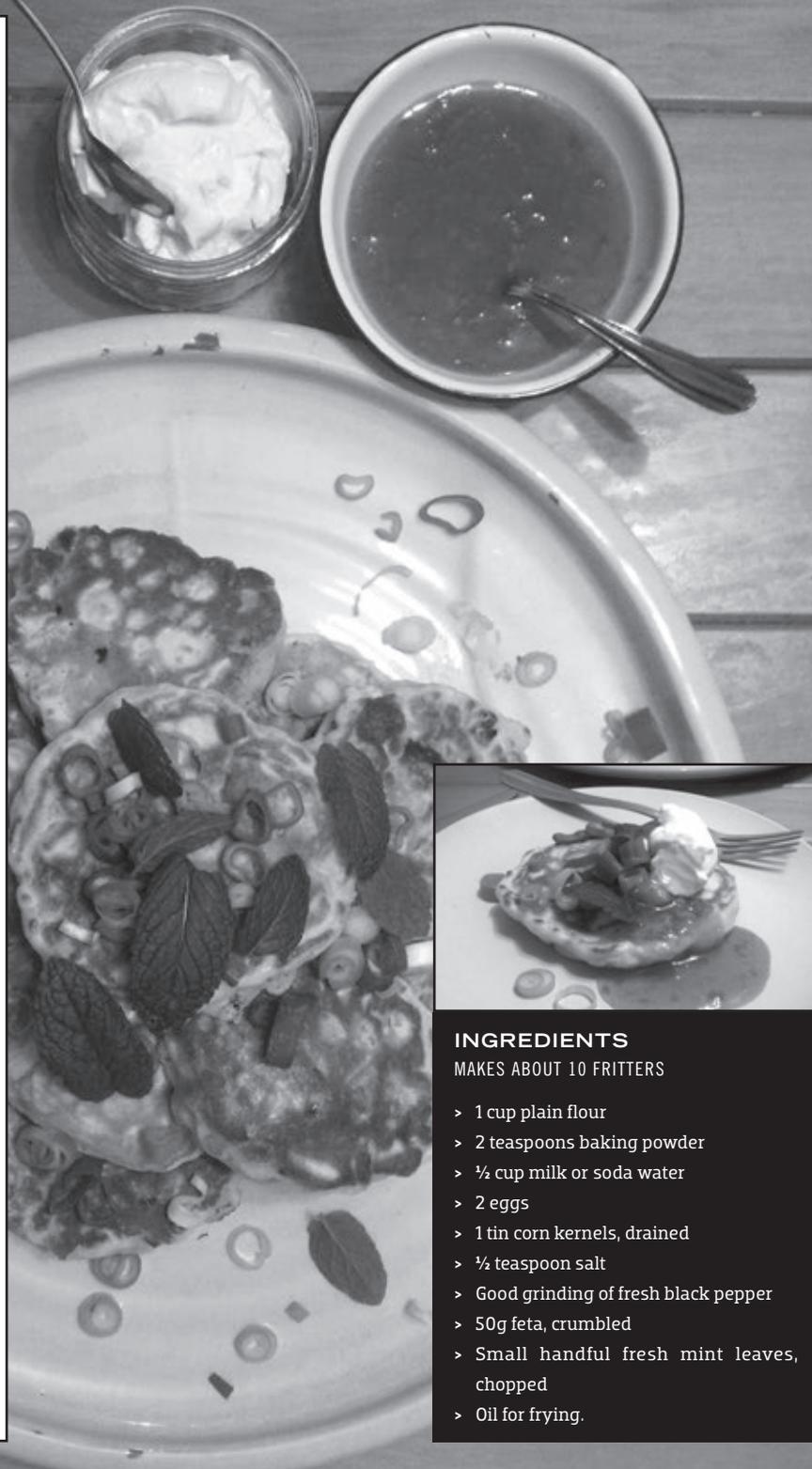
Last year I came home rather drunk, tripped over my feet and left my knees outside on the concrete. The first thing to come to my attention was not the lack of skin over my kneecaps but the fact that I was hungry. So letting my socks soak up the blood as it poured down my legs, I proceeded to cook myself corn fritters. Now, kids, remember: don't drink and fry! They were, however, the best fritters of my life and the satisfaction they provided definitely outweighed the two Staph infections that proceeded.

To make these all you need is flour, baking powder, eggs, corn and milk (and a few minor other things if you want to be a bit flash). I like putting fresh mint and feta in mine as well but if you are scraping the bottom of the flat card-barrel, these are just as delicious plain.

Make sure you have a good non-stick frying pan. May I recommend the \$6 beauties at Kmart. Not kidding you, best frying pans out and oh-so non-stick!

METHOD

1. Preheat a medium-sized frying pan, with a good splash of oil in it, over a medium heat.
2. Mix together the flour, baking powder, salt and pepper in a mixing bowl. Add in the milk/soda water and eggs, and whisk with a fork until smooth. Stir in the corn kernels, feta and mint leaves.
3. Using a dessert spoon, spoon out small portions onto the heated frying pan. Cook and flip once each side is golden brown. Turn the heat down if they are browning too quickly for the insides to cook properly.
4. Serve with sweet chilli sauce and sour cream. Nom!



INGREDIENTS

MAKES ABOUT 10 FRITTERS

- > 1 cup plain flour
- > 2 teaspoons baking powder
- > ½ cup milk or soda water
- > 2 eggs
- > 1 tin corn kernels, drained
- > ½ teaspoon salt
- > Good grinding of fresh black pepper
- > 50g feta, crumbled
- > Small handful fresh mint leaves, chopped
- > Oil for frying.



Stop! We need you to take part in a study. If you are 18-40 years old, eat 2 or less servings of bread a day, and are keen to make a contribution to science, then check if you are eligible at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QD5C2NW> or call 021 208 8585 or email mazh1085@student.otago.ac.nz





A-

CHILD OF LIGHT

DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED
BY UBISOFT
360, PS3, WII U, PS4, XBOX ONE, PC

THE GAMING INDUSTRY WAS BORN IN JAPAN, and there it lived for several decades. But it wasn't long before western developers began to spring up by the handful, and now the power has shifted and the bulk of development happens in western countries. Because of these distinctions in culture and approach, a very clear separation has been created. (Without fail, I could identify the east or west origins of a game after only a few frames.) This dichotomy is wonderful in many ways, as it offers players internationally a diverse range of style and gameplay. What is even more wonderful are the rare moments in which developers amalgamate styles from the east and west. *Child of Light* is the latest example, and one of the most wonderful, of this marriage.

Amazingly, this game is not an indie group's homage to eastern games, but rather a product of one of the world's biggest publishers, Ubisoft. Few publishers in the world would offer their developers the freedom to explore less lucrative game styles and genres, but over the last couple of years Ubisoft have shown themselves to be passionate about games above almost everything else. The team responsible for the creation of *Child of Light* was almost entirely comprised of the developers behind 2012's *Farcry 3*.

In the ultimate display of east-meets-west, *Child of Light* tells the story of Princess Aurora of Austria at the turn of the 20th Century as she searches her dreams for her father; a very western premise. However, the gameplay is modelled after some of the greatest Japanese RPGs ever made, as well as adopting a stunning art style inspired by the work of Studio Ghibli and Yoshitaka Amano. These two worlds collide to stunning effect. The very Germanic story, carrying all of the dark whimsy and wonder of ancient Europe, the art style that realises this

journey with a unique and beautiful twist and the gameplay grounding it all within something comfortingly familiar but wickedly fun, speak volumes for the game.

A downside, however, is that the story is told completely through the use of a very regular rhyme scheme and meter. At times this can make the story stunningly beautiful, carrying with it something approximating the verse of a classic fairy tale. Unfortunately, the writers of *Child of Light* only had few such moments, and for a great portion of the game the rhyme and meter either falls flat, or manipulates the dialogue in a wholly unnatural and clunky way just to make the lines work. There are many moments when you wish the rhyme scheme and meter wasn't such an integral part of the game, as it often pulls you out of the game rather than pulls you further in. This problem is slightly alleviated by the developer's willingness to play with the convention, such as a character who always sets up great rhymes and then is unable to fulfil them, making the other characters jump in and correct her.

Your exploration of Aurora's dreamland Lemuria takes place within a 2.5D side scrolling landscape that is reminiscent of the recent *Rayman* games. This is because the game was constructed in the same engine, though aside from the similar framing, the games couldn't feel more different in execution. *Child of Light* has a keen focus on exploration. You start the game exploring the world on foot, trying to find secret treasures and solving puzzles to progress. This section felt very grounded and although fun I couldn't help but feel that there were things out of reach. This is because not far into the game Aurora is given the ability to fly, and it opens up the exploration completely, making the vertical and horizontal exploration of this gorgeous world an absolute pleasure.



This pleasure is only amplified by the superb combat mechanics. Like some *Final Fantasy* iterations and the *Grandia* series, *Child of Light* has a real-time-combat system. This operates through a bar at the bottom of the screen, which has each of your allies and the enemies on it. You travel across the bar and when you reach the end you are able to attack. The strategy comes from juggling the timing and method of your attack so that you do the most damage, while also interrupting your foes' attacks. Like all good systems, it is easy to enter and hard to master. Yet your mastery of it is almost bound to happen, as the game makes clear how to do so through a superbly designed progression system that clearly demonstrates what different combat strategies each of your allies can take and how they will interact with each other.

Child of Light is a superb amalgamation of aspects of a refreshingly diverse number of cultural and artistic styles. Despite the generally clunky nature of the poetic dialogue, this is an experience truly worth having.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac



NEW THIS WEEK / SINGLES IN REVIEW



QUIRKE - BREAK A MİRRORED LEG

"Break a Mirrored Leg" is the lead single from the British producer's debut EP *Acid Beth*. A swirling mish-mash of sounds, like machine parts. The track blends driving rhythm with well-executed dynamics. The result is a cold, dark soundscape which is equally uncomfortable as it is immersive.



SHABAZZ PALACES THEY COME IN GOLD AFRAID

Shabazz Palaces is a Seattle hip-hop enigma, who in 2011 released one of the year's most talked about albums in *Black Up*. "They Come In Gold" is the first single from the group's sophomore album *Lese Majesty*. A dark, mid-tempo track, coloured by glistening synth flourishes.



TOBACCO - STREAKER

"Streaker" is from Tobacco's upcoming album *Ultimata II Massage*.

A project of Black Moth Super Rainbow's Thomas Fec, Tobacco is the darker, more schizophrenic of the two. "Streaker" is a straight-up mind trip, and in quite a perverse way. Its heavy distorted grooves are brutal, especially combined with Fec's de-octaved vocals. You kind of feel violated. But for some reason, it's also really good.



SIA - CHANDELIER

Australian pop artist Sia Furler bursts into the alternative and commercial charts with "Chandelier." Featuring a breath-taking vocal performance, the song seems specifically written to be an international hit; sounding one part Rihanna, and no part Australian. However, it's definitely one of the best pop songs of the year so far, for sure.



LITTLE BIG LEAGUE YEAR OF THE SUNHOUSE

Little Big League is Michelle Zauner, who creates wonderfully fun, nineties guitar pop, reminiscent of Sebadoh, Liz Phair and Speedy Ortiz. "Year of the Sunhouse" is an infectious track which touches on the awful situation of dealing with an ex-flame. "You look so good like you're mocking me."



ARTIST PROFILE: MILLIE LOVELOCK ASTRO CHILDREN & TRICK MAMMOTH

MILLIE LOVELOCK IS ONE PART OF SPACE-POP duo Astro Children and also my band-mate in Trick Mammoth. This year she travelled to Montreal as part of the University's exchange programme. An influential presence on the Dunedin music scene, I asked Millie some questions about her trip and what we can expect to hear from her musically when she returns.

You've had quite a few adventures in Montreal. What are your favorites so far?

Well I snuck into a secret Mac Demarco show with my roommate and a stamp I had forged on my wrist with pink highlighter, after having just survived an hour in line during a snow storm. Another time I went ice skating on top of a mountain, and just last night I tried karaoke for the first time, but I'm not going to try that again.

What does it feel like not to have played music for so long?

I've got quite a bit of tension to work off; this is the longest I have gone without playing a show since high school.

You are also a writer, having completed two novels now. Can you tell us about your favorite books and authors?

My favourite book in all the world is *The Garden of Eden* by Ernest Hemingway; I've borrowed dialogue from that book for songs. It's a beautiful book. Recently I've been sporadically reading some D.H. Lawrence short stories and a bit of poetry by a Canadian poet named Dorothy Livesay.

I like reading books that sort of shout at me.

What do you miss most about Dunedin?

Adrian Ng is what I miss the most about Dunedin? I miss the weather, the music and all my friends, and also my cat.

I knew it! So what's the campus at McGill like in comparison to Otago?

McGill campus is in downtown Montreal, and it looks like a castle hiding in the middle of all the big buildings. People hang around on the lawns smoking weed now the snow has melted, so I would say in that respect it is pretty similar to Otago. In general though students seem to set fewer couches on fire, and I haven't seen as many jandals.

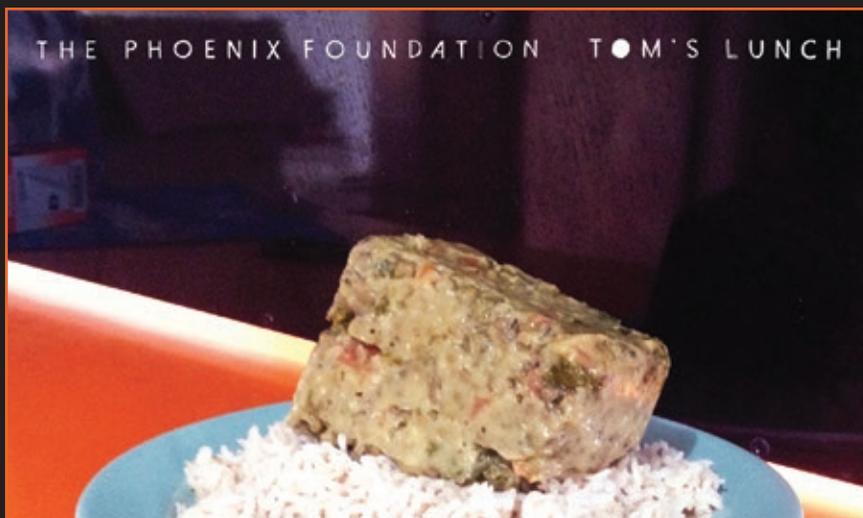
What's next for Astro Children?

Well, the first thing will be a "we're back!" show before the tension gets too much and we both spontaneously combust, then I guess we'll spend some time on our second album, which I'm really hoping is going to sound a lot like One Direction.

That sounds great! Finally, you stopped by Amoeba Records in San Francisco; what was in your bag?

Diiv - *Oshin*
Savages - *Silence Yourself*
Sigur Ros - *Hoppipolla*
The Pains of Being Pure at Heart - Higher than the Stars
Morrissey - *Vauxhall and I*

astrochildren.bandcamp.com
twitter.com/astromammoth



A- **THE PHOENIX FOUNDATION**
TOM'S LUNCH EP

SELF RELEASED (NZ); 2014
INDIE-POP, ALTERNATIVE

IN THE FALL OF 2013, NEW ZEALAND POP HEAVY-weights The Phoenix Foundation released their sprawling double album *Fandango* to widespread acclaim. The album featured two drummers, with longtime member Richie Singleton leaving the band in the midst of making the album to focus on environmental work. In between several tours to promote *Fandango*, appearances on *Jools Holland* and contributing to compilations for *Mojo*, it's somehow surprising that after only a year the band have returned with a new EP casually titled *Tom's Lunch*, maybe a reference to Suzanne Vega's album *Tom's Diner*. The release features five brand new songs, surfacing partly because of Samuel Scott and Luke Buda's desire to work with new drummer Chris O'Conner, and also from a new found inspiration to push the band in a more interesting direction.

The EP opens with "Bob Lennon John Dylan," an infectious proto-punk pop song based around an upbeat, almost '80s disco groove. One of the two tracks mixed by David Fridmann (The Flaming Lips, MGMT, Tame Impala), the song takes on a similar personality to some of the projects in Fridmann's discography, this while at the same time sounding like a New Zealand take on Talking Heads. Featuring passionate vocals and lyrics that tumble over one another, rhyming words such as "spastic," "plastic" and "rhinoplasty" in an almost "Mr. Roboto-esque" trance. You can sort of imagine the song being

played down the halls of a space station, the track's splashy guitar stabs, bass runs and punchy snare hits forming a catchy, unifying base for Samuel Scott and Luke Buda's voices to echo and swell over one another.

Second track "Fiscal Pickle" carries on in a similar vein. Centered around a neo-soul base line, the track explores an intriguing mix of psychedelia and dance pop. A track that could have sat nicely somewhere in Bowie's Berlin trilogy. "Real Pig" delves equally as deep into psychedelic territory. Featuring wonderful melodic guitar flourishes, and interesting ethnic, rhythm tangents, the band seem to have written their own version of The Beatles' "Within You Without You."

"Asswipe" is the second track to be mixed by Fridmann, an instrumental track that relies on a beautiful washed out synth line to carry the load melodically. Propelled by a jittery rhythmic pace, the track sounds as if it's holding its breath, and synchronises perfectly into "Race Day," the eight-minute finale. A slower paced song, featuring soft vocals, the flowery guitar line parallels the main melody of the track, complementing its subtle infection and sonic vastness.

Overall, *Tom's Diner* is an enjoyable twenty minutes of music from a band obviously in a mode of inspiration and energy. Though it does trail off at bits, the strength and infectiousness of the lead single coupled with some interesting diversions is intriguing for sure, and does get me interested in what the band could do with a full length release. A solid EP from some of New Zealand's most skilled musicians.

By Adrian Ng | @TrickMammoth



NZ DOWNLOAD OF THE WEEK:
SHEEP, DOG AND WOLF
ABLUTOPHOBIA EP

SELF RELEASED; 2011
FOLK, ALTERNATIVE

SHEEP, DOG AND WOLF IS THE project of prolific New Zealand musician Daniel McBride, recorded in 2011 when he was only 17. He says,

"My name is Daniel McBride, 17 years of age, and *Ablutophobia EP* is the result of nine months on-and-off recording in a tiny little studio I've managed to set up in my bedroom. I composed and performed all the songs by myself, borrowing various instruments to try and live up to the ideas I had in my head - an endeavour that saw me teach myself cello and euphonium, simply because I'd decided they were essential to the song. This obsessiveness with which I record has resulted in a lot of sleepless nights, food-less days, and social-contact-less weeks, but I think that it's been worth it. This EP marks the first, and certainly not the last, release from Sheep, Dog and Wolf; a project that for the last nine months has been my steadily growing and increasingly demanding music-baby. So please, download and enjoy!"

You can get *Ablutophobia EP* as a name-your-price download from his website, sheepdogandwolf.com.



INTERVIEW: MICHAEL WOODHOUSE NATIONAL PARTY MP

MICHAEL WOODHOUSE IS A NATIONAL PARTY list MP based in Dunedin. He takes care of both Dunedin North and South, and is the Minister of Immigration, Veterans' Affairs, and Land Information. He is also Assistant Minister of Transport.

Why should students vote for you? What do you want to do for us?

Didn't I answer that? Well, just cut and paste that answer out of the previous [issue in which I was interviewed for *Critic*]. No, look, I think students by and large tend to be very focused on the here and now. And that's really important and it's important to me that they have the best education they could possibly get. And I think they do. At the University of Otago we have one of the finest institutions in the country, we certainly have one of the best health science faculties in the world, and the Government wants to make sure that's the case, and I work bloody hard up in Wellington to make sure that's the case.

So is there anything specifically you want to do to extend that down here, specifically to Otago and specifically for Otago students?

Well in terms of the University, it's important that we grow ... so my role is to make sure Dunedin is in the mind's eye and it maintains its status. One of the things it can do, I think, is grow its programmes, so domestically, Dunedin and Otago are seen as the first choice for intending students, and it markets well across the country, but also to international students. Increasingly education and research is international ... I sense

there's a reluctance here at the University to get too big in terms of international students, and that is true, I think there is a point over which the mix becomes problematic, may potentially undermine the special character that is Otago, but as Minister of Immigration, I work very closely with Steven Joyce to make sure that our international and our export education is growing, and I want to make sure at a micro level that Otago is part of that.

So in a nutshell, what's the best thing you've done for Dunedin so far? Like a policy or just one quick ...

Look, in terms of Dunedin work, I've gone in to bat for a whole pile of things. But actually I think the work that I do in the Dunedin office for individual constituents is the thing that I'll sit in my rocking chair and be the most fond about. And as a list MP, frankly it's a pejorative term, even amongst my colleagues, we are considered lesser beings ... Yeah, there's nothing better than being able to pick up the phone and go "Mrs Brown, we got a win for you on ACC." Well not immigration now, actually, I can't deal with immigration, sadly, but you know, whether it's a mental health issue or a housing issue, or ... they're good ones to get. And I also think, and I'm not going to shy away from the other issue, we've gone through five years of really, really tough economic times. And yep, Clark will tell you that they had successive surpluses and all that sort of stuff ... well, they didn't, 'cause 2008 was a dog's breakfast, and the structural spending increases that were bedded in between '05 and '08 led to

projections by treasurers of ten years of deficits. And we had to fix that really quickly. So being back to surplus in year five is, I think, a bloody good result. Particularly when you super-impose Christchurch, Canterbury earthquakes on that. So what's my goal and role in supporting Dunedin? It's to make sure that we don't go backwards.

Just to move away from Dunedin a bit, do you agree with your Australian counterpart's policy on asylum seekers?

Well, let's put this in its broadest context. From a regional perspective, New Zealand plays its part in ensuring that irregular arrivals, and we're talking about maritime arrivals, boat people, are disincentivised, discouraged, and then managed. So we're talking about three dimensions here, and New Zealand doesn't have, yet, an issue. We haven't had a known maritime arrival ... I can't judge Australia's response, because I've never been a Minister of Immigration where thousands and thousands of boat people are arriving on shores every month, and I think we need to contextualise that. New Zealand has a good response plan, we've been exercising Operation Barrier for four years, three years, we finesse it every time we do it, and I'm satisfied to the degree that we can, we are ready if it happens. We have a naval, a medical, a biosecurity, a customs, a police, and a judicial response, ready to go when we need it, and I will lead that. I will be the person. But I'm not going to sit here and judge Australia for what they do and don't do, it would not be appropriate of me to comment on that.

Why wouldn't it be appropriate if it were a question of human rights?

I think it's because I don't understand that context. The geopolitical situation in the North of Australia between Australia and Indonesia and Papua New Guinea is a very difficult one. What I would say, in a more general sense, is that everybody has the right to be treated fairly, consistently, quickly, and consistent with refugee conventions. And as far as I can tell, while there's been a lot of noise around that particular thing with Christmas Island and Nauru, I've seen no clear evidence that there are human rights abuses in those places that is being perpetrated by the Australian Government.

Surely it is the Australian responsibility if they are the ones that put the people in the situation in the first place should human rights abuses be carried out. Surely Australia has some responsibility to deal with that?



What I would say is that anybody who has a person who is detained and detentioned has a valid response under UN convention on refugees ... [they] do have a responsibility firstly to provide security to its own people, secondly to provide basic physiological and safety needs for the people detained. That's nourishment, shelter, general protection ... but some of the things that have been going on, particularly the destruction of places in Nauru, make that problematic. And of course it wasn't the Australian government that burnt down the detention centre.

No. I'm asking if you think they should have some responsibility since it was their policy that-

Well the question isn't if they should have some responsibility, it's whether they are discharging that responsibility and that becomes a value judgement where the Australian government and Amnesty International will never see eye to eye. So it's not for me to inject myself in that debate.

Okay. Do you have any particular opinion about the recent book that came out that was marketed to possible asylum seekers? It was a comic essentially, made by the Australian government, and the underlying quote was something like "you will never come to Australia, you will never live in Australia." It was like a comic book and it was handed out essentially saying "never, never again."

No I didn't see it, what I do know is the previous Labour government had a very active, as part of their disruption plan, they did have quite an interesting media propaganda strategy, which did involve, from time to time, full page ads in

daily papers in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, hopping off points, basically. To simply say "do not come. The smugglers are telling you lies about what will happen when they get there." And I think that's necessary. So I can't comment on the comic book, but to give you an example of that, we were aware through a four corners programme last year, of two well-known Indonesian people smugglers in Malaysia who were recorded as saying "when you arrive in NZ you will get residence after 35 days, you will be supported, you will get this, that, the next thing." And it was nonsense. And we do need to, because they are seducing vulnerable people, to pass over money and then to put their lives at risk in sometimes very dangerous waters, and they will do that, because they're selling the reward. A reward that is non-existent. And I think it's incumbent on us to make sure that is told to anybody, desperate though they are, and I completely understand, you know, some people's desire to take that risk. But if they take that risk because of lies told to them, look honestly, if there is a hell, the hottest spots will be reserved for these people smugglers. They are heinous criminals. And I think we need to – we sit in judgement from a long way away, on a situation that we do not understand and I hope we don't have to for a very long time. But it would be naive to think that this could never happen in New Zealand.

Can you tell me – what was your reason for your vote against marriage equality?

Oh, quite simply this. I don't care pretty much who does what with whom and where. And I'll state that again. A lot of people think this is some kind of fund[amental]y religious belief

I have. Well, there's nothing further from the truth. And I'm very much a live and let live kind of guy. Probably far more socially liberal than people give me credit for. But that live and let live involves the ability of other people to hold a different view and not to have others' views forced on them ... Now, that said, there were a few aspects of civil union legislation, which I'm quite relaxed about, that actually didn't give same sex couples the same rights, and that could've been fixed, and I would have supported a civil union law that was for everyone, and then leave marriage for whoever wants to call it a marriage. And here's the problem, right? Through that whole debate, it was really explaining things losing that stuff, when it's really a hot button socially liberal issue; to try and explain that to anyone is to bore them to tears, so it was way easier to say "oh, he's a fundy." 'Cause that's how it was represented by many groups, and I had a lot of social media stuff saying "please explain your reason for voting against this bill." how the hell do you put that in a tweet?

Cool. One final question, and it's just a fun one. You travel a lot, what's your favourite place?

Rome. If I was to say (it's out of a long list, by the way), but if I was to go and plant myself in one place for a few weeks and just explore, it would be Rome. It's ancient. I like old. I like old architecture. I'd go to Rome with a friend of mine who's a classical studies graduate from Otago. That would be my Utopia and some nice Italian wine and good food and my family. That would be my ideal holiday.

By Carys Goodwin | @cgoodwin23

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University Book Shop

LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a \$25 book voucher from the University Book Shop.

Well articulated

Hey Critic team,

Giving last week was rape awareness week, I'd like to draw attention to something that I find far too common in day to day conversation – rape jokes. Giving the percentage of people affected by rape, there is a high chance that one of two people will hear such jokes, those two people being victims and rapists.

From a victims point of view, a rape joke belittles and makes light of what has probably been one of the most horrific things they've had to endure. If they speak up about finding it insensitive, they'll probably be told to lighten up – it was a joke, or ask why they're so offended. I've had this happen to me. No-one wants to be reminded of the times when they've been violated, or relive it in everyday company.

There is also the chance that you'll be telling your joke in front of someone who has taken sexual advantage of another person. To them hearing such a joke can validate their actions, and confirm that they were in the right. Normalizing rape makes it an accepted part of everyday life and conversation.

The only way you should talk about rape is with disgust. Next time someone hacks your facebook, call it that, not frape. There is a high chance one of your friends or colleagues has experienced rape in some form. Don't say an exam 'raped' you. Don't trivialize something you can't comprehend, be grateful that you've never had to experience it personally.

Anonymous

How about calling it Nickelback and Sons?

dear critic,
bands:

ok, so i have this idea for a super band, it's a combination of the members of dire straits, and the straight jacket fits. it's going to be called the diarrhea straight jacket fits.

bloody holly

a soap opera in other people's languages. dualism, postal-ism, reclinism, detrimentalism, is it a farce or a far cry?

Ten times the ammount that you bought your shoes for

You be Daffy, I'll be Porky

1337 selektah

Check it out, people!

Hi Critic,

You missed one of the best places in town to play arcade games – Kaikorai Valley Bowl Line! Maybe its because its out of the city centre, but its got the most arcade games around I've seen plus good old tenpin bowling! So for those who don't know its worth visiting – they've got air hockey, pinball, shooting games, racing games and claw games!

From,

a fan of Bowl Line's Indiana Jones pinball machine

The Taj Mahal will never disappoint

The Editor,
Critic.

The Editor,

Theres a measure of inequality in the Universities wonderful building fund, nipping off another income stream from the city every time it buys more lands, while the host city of Dunedin wallows in debt, when a boy from the halls whacks me to determine gender, pinches my pool coin, and jumps in my face demanding drinks. Woken twice on Thursdays, the dead pianos kindled up again, my paper on harassment shunted to an empty seat; like people going blind students fill the gap between what the net tells them and what they see with a variety of interesting fictions, the songs and opinions I express constantly confused with my behaviours, and their disappointment when they find my own alter egos run to an ancient Yorkshire farm girl and Roadrunner, honking like an angry swan at the twittering mass of samey faces, when all the woman really wants is a nice butter chicken at the Taj Mahal, a tanker of sweet talk, and a private life.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Heap

The ivory needs some really intense cleaning, to be honest. Execrable this week is a doozy.

Hi critic team,

I just want to thank you for your ongoing coverage of OUSA's Executive meetings and general business. It's basically the only way I ever know

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 200 words or fewer. Deadline is Thursday at 5pm. Send letters to critic@critic.co.nz, post them to PO Box 1436, Dunedin, or drop into the Critic office. All letters must include full contact details, even if you don't want these printed. Letters of a serious nature directly addressing a specific person or group will not be published under a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances negotiated with the Editor. Critic reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline letters without explanation. We don't fix the spelling or grammar in letters. If a writer looks stupid, it's because they are.

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what the heck is happening in the ivory tower of our esteemed elected officials.

I must say, however, that I'm slightly concerned. You keep saying that they "could be a strong group" with some improvements, but the distinct feeling I get from your coverage is that particular members have pulled us to an absolute low. I hope I'm wrong.

Armchair Politinut

4:20 aye

Not to come down on your drug-induced article but 35.3% of New Zealanders have not smoked weed in the last 12 months (although it might explain Colin Craig in the same issue). That figure was based on a self-selective online survey filled in mainly by young potheads. The best estimate from a variety of proper surveys is about 13-15% between the ages of 18-65 (2006 UN survey and 2007/2008 New Zealand Alcohol and Drug Use Survey). Put that in your pipe and smoke it!

Mr Pedant

NOTICES

OUA Student Forum and Student General Meeting

22 May at noon in the Main Common Room or outside if sunny.

Following this, there will be a Student General Meeting at 12:30 with free sausage sizzle. The agenda will be to report a constitutional breach from November 2013 to the student body.

The Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations 2014 Conference

Calling all Harvard enthusiasts, global citizens and those interested in learning about the growing presence of Asia. The Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations is an annual conference hosted by an Asian city and has been running for over 20 years. HPAIR is the largest student-led conference run by Harvard University, and this year it is being held in Tokyo, Japan from 22-26 August 2014 and being co-hosted by Keio University.

The theme for this year's conference is Reflection and Progression: Fostering Mutual Growth. Head to this link for more information: hpair.org/conf/aconf2014

The conference is not funded so delegates must support themselves financially. However, the large majority of delegates receive financial support from their universities and local rotaries and MP's.

This conference accepts delegates from all subject areas. Applications close 31 May.

SOC103 Crime, Deviance and Social Transformation

Are criminals born or are they made? Should society punish or rehabilitate convicts? Do gangs fulfil a need that is not satisfied by some families? If these questions spark your curiosity, sign up for Soci103. The paper sheds light on the *social* dimensions of crime. It familiarises students with historical and current debates related to crime and deviance and showcases cutting-edge research in criminology in both global and local contexts. The paper also takes into account a range of themes related to popular protest and collective resistance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
The Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work
otago.ac.nz/sgsw • sgsw@otago.ac.nz • (03) 479 7951



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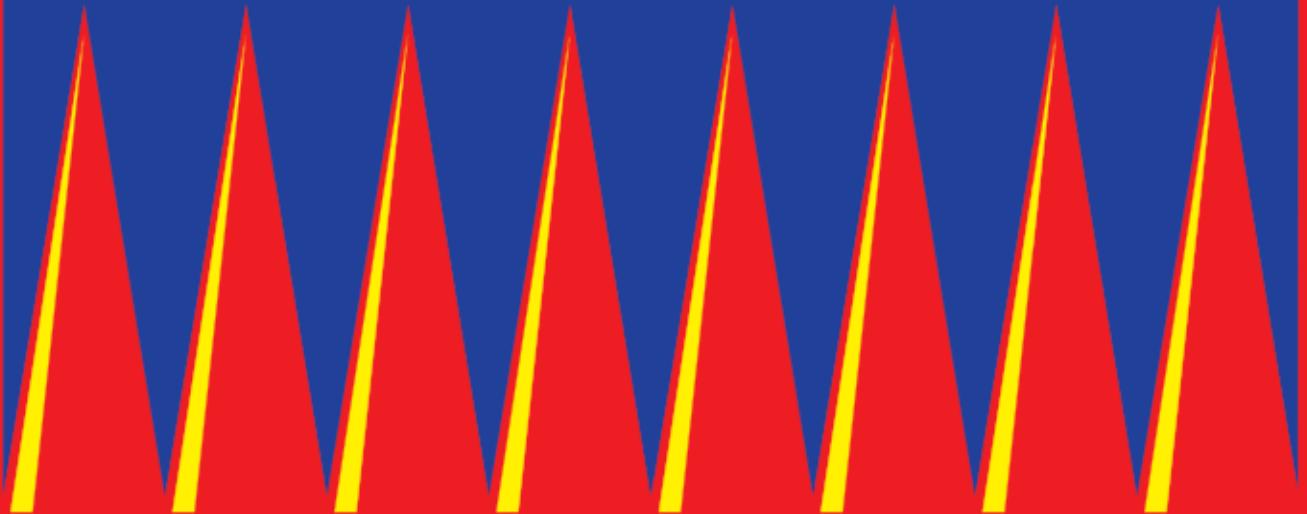
MAGAZINE

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MONDAY
MORNING
SPECTRUM

10 ~~~~~ 12 ^{PM}_{PM}

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President's Column

BBQ? Free meat and bread with some yummy red sauce? Come join us in our student general meeting! We need at least 100 of you beautiful students to be a part of tough questions and healthy debate! **Thursday 22nd in the MCR at noon!** Come, be a part of the magic.

Do you think that marijuana should be legalised? Should OUSA invest in a student bar? Would you

like fruit and vegetables to be free of GST? Do you want to secure that student seat on the University Council? Then speak up! Vote vote vote in our referendum, plus there are more awesome questions that you can tick the box YES or NO! Head over to vote.ousa.org.nz and win some super cool prizes!

There is nothing more refreshing than hearing the same message twice, or getting so excited about the future that you think this week is last week and last week is the next. It's like when I spend a whole column getting you guys super excited for flating week and leave you high and dry because GUYS IT'S ACTUALLY THIS WEEK, NOT LAST WEEK AND I'M SORRY FOR GETTING YOUR HOPES UP. But you know what, now you are even more prepared for flating week than you have ever been before!

Don't forget to nominate your landlord for being a legend or a loser, the tenants of the winner of 'Best Landlord' will win \$200 off your power bill and a Velvet feed for the flat, plus a pamper pack for your top notch landlord. If your landlord is shit, you could still be a winner! You could win a \$200 flat clean and a flat feed from Velvet too! Your horrible landlord

gets some lunch and a serious chat from our mates at Student Support. Just like that, all your flat dramas could be gone! Enter here bit.ly/bestworst2014. We also have a super fun Rate My Flat Quiz night! The questions are pretty tough, I hope you're up for the challenge. There are going to be some awesome prizes in this quiz, so enter and win! Get your flat entered here bit.ly/flatquiz.

Market Day this Thursday too! It'll be out on the Union Courtyard outside OUSA, or if the weather's shitty, it'll be in the Union Hall. We'll have FLATTING WEEK stalls set up there with info about cleaning products, tendency advice, and so much other flat knowledge your brain will explode! Cool!

Also the **Battle of the Bands Finals** are this Saturday at ReFuel! Come one, come all! Come see the best competitors, celebrate music month, and party like a groupie!

Enjoy the week, don't forget to bring your flat along to the MCR on Thursday at 12pm and have a snuggly time with us!

Ngā mihi and regards, Ruby Sycamore-Smith

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Market Day

9AM-3PM
THURSDAY MAY 22
UNION LAWN COURTYARD*

SPECIAL OUSA LOST PROPERTY SALE STALL
All proceeds go to charity

STALLHOLDER INFO ONLINE AT OUSA.ORG.NZ
OR POP INTO THE OUSA MAIN OFFICE RECEPTION
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Flating Week

May 19-23rd

Tuesday
QUIZ NIGHT WITH PIZZA!
(5PM, MAIN COMMON ROOM)
Bring your flatmates along for a feed and a good time on us! Win wicked spot prizes to spice up your flat! Limited spots available so email welfare@ousa.org.nz to register!

Friday
THRIFTY NIFTY CLEANING WORKSHOP (FREE - 3PM, OUSA REC. CENTRE)
Learn how to make your own environmentally friendly cleaning products - save the planet and your wallet! Limited spots, so register by emailing thrifty@ousa.org.nz

Thursday
OUSA MARKET DAY (UNION COURTYARD)
Cleaning Stuff Giveaways!
Win a shopping trolley full of awesome groceries! Free Flating Care Packs! Free Tenancy Advice!
Come check it all out!

BEST/WORST LANDLORD
Nominate your landlord now to be in to win! bit.ly/landlordawards2014
Great prizes up for grabs and a fun awards ceremony on Friday evening for all participating flatties and landlords!

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